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WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD041632 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

["International Observers Roundtable" program presented by Viktor Levin, all-union radio commentator; Spartak Ivanovich Beglov, NOVOSTI political observer; and Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, international affairs journalist]

Brezhnev's Baumanskiy Electorate Speech

[Text] [Levin] Hello, comrades. In voting today for the candidates of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people, we are all deeply impressed by the striking and inspired speech made by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev at the meeting with the electorate of the Baumanskiy constituency in Moscow. This speech clearly described the international position of our country and convincingly demonstrated that the years which have elapsed since the last elections for the USSR Supreme Soviet have witnessed continued successful development for the countries of socialism; new victories for the nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America in their struggle for national and social liberation; and a considerable increase in the class struggles of the working people and the strengthening of the influence of communist and workers' parties in the capitalist countries. At the same time, Comrade Brezhnev noted that the opponents of detente have also intensified their actions noticeably.

China's Invasion of SRV

[Shishlin] It should be noted that at the present moment the world press is full of responses to this speech which you have mentioned--the speech by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev to the electorate. It is characteristic that in this torrent of responses one's attention is attracted primarily by the most burning issue of the present day. This is the question of China's aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. And it is very important that what should be seen in this speech is the statement on the inviolable solidarity on the part of the Soviet Union with the heroic Vietnamese people. This speech reflects the firm will of the Soviet Union not to leave Vietnam in dire straits and the fact that Vietnam, which during the course of 3 decades defended its freedom, with weapons in hand, is again being issued a challenge, this time from the north. And it is here, of course, that that same political algebra enters the matter. These are the calculations that always accompany important events and which do not lend themselves to the simple arithmetic performed by those who organized the incursion into Vietnam and who planned this large-scale military action, which is in fact taking the form of war against a socialist country.

[Levin] Yes, China's aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is expanding. And at the same time reports are coming in of a concentration of Chinese troops on the borders with the People's Democratic Republic of Laos. Now the threat of Chinese intervention is hanging over the Laotian people, too. In a statement published in yesterday's papers, the Soviet Government indicated quite definitely that China's actions could not help but affect those who are really interested in guaranteeing the security of nations and preserving peace. The Chinese aggressors, the Soviet Government statement underlines, must know that the more crimes they commit, the more severe will be their retribution.

[Shishlin] In Beijing they are attempting to conceal the aggression against Vietnam in a fog of words. They are continually maintaining that what the Chinese troops are doing is something like a repetition of the Indian experiment, that is, China's border war with India which took place about 10 years ago.

[Levin] That was in 1962, when the Chinese occupied 36,000 kilometers of Indian territory, and, by the way, they still retain this territory.

[Shishlin] Yes, you see how time flies. I thought this was about 10 years ago, but China's aggressive steps, as you can see, date from a much earlier time. And indeed, what was the sending of battalions against Vietnam by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime if not a Chinese war--a war by proxy? But after this gamble was lost and the regime in Kampuchea was swept away by national anger, China brought new elements into the situation.

After a wave of provocations against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Chinese Army was finally prepared for an assault. Then it was only necessary to create the proper political conditions for this assault. The visit by Deng Xiaoping to the United States, and his earlier visit to Japan, served, as a matter of fact, as the political preparation for the attack. But the weeks that have elapsed since the moment when the Chinese aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam began have revealed with adequate clarity not only the politicalmiscalculstions but also the political failure of the Beijing militarists. It is characteristic that the statement made by the Soviet Government, and so tellingly confirmed in the latest speech by Comrade Brezhnev, is now unanimously endorsed by all fraternal socialist countries.

The communist and workers parties are making common cause with this statement. The progressive international public is making common cause with this statement. Yes, and not just the progressive international public, but broad international circles in the fullest sense of this word.

[Beglov] Yes, quite so, and in many capitalist countries, including in the ruling circles of the Western countries, there is fairly general agreement that this is a case of open Chinese high-handedness--open military high-handedness from the Beijing leadership, and so, if we take the reaction of, let us say, the leaders of the countries of two different parts of the world, then we shall see how the evaluations of different figures tally. For example, the president of France, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, and the federal chancellor of West Germany, Helmut Schmidt, when they met last week, both of them unanimously demanded the immediate withdrawal of Chinese troops from Vietnam.

In another part of the world, in the Indian capital, Delhi, the prime minister of this country, Morarji Desai, also unambiguously described the Chinese action as an act of aggression against Vietnam. Also characteristic are the evaluations of many eminent observers. For example, an influential bourgeois newspaper of the FRG, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, in an article entitled "Beijing Is Playing With Fire," wrote that the reaction throughout the world was the same. China's neighbors--Japan and the noncommunist countries of Southeast Asia--were shocked. The Third World countries, whose advocate China would have liked to make itself, are indignant. In the West, especially in the United States, hopes have given way to skepticism.

[Levin] Spartak Ivanovich, I would like, in this connection, to cite two specific examples. The Beijing correspondent of the Japanese newspaper NIHON KEIZAI writes, in a report on the reaction of the diplomatic circles in the Chinese capital to the Chinese aggression, that some have voiced the opinion that in unleashing its current combat operations Beijing, above all, underestimated the strength of Vietnam's resistance. Moreover, the Chinese leadership evidently did not expect such an exclusively harsh international reaction ot its actions. And a U.S. newspaper, the New York TIMES, in criticizing China's position, calls the justification for the invasion into Vietnam the logic of the lynch law.

[Beglov] Yes, and so those international observers, including those in the West, are right when they write that the so-called Chinese euphoria--that is, the reaction amongst Western ruling circles that could be seen during Beijing's so-called diplomacy of smiles when Deng Xiaoping paid visits to Bucharest, Belgrade and then the United States--that now this euphoria has changed into embarrassment.

Because, when the affected smile disappeared from the face of the Beijing rulers to be replaced by a malicious grin, when a blow was struck with the large Maoist cudgel against a small but proud country which had not submitted to Chinese threats, then these rose-colored illusions were dispersed. And in many capitals of the world the question was rightfully asked: Just who are we dealing with?

West's Arms Deals With China

And now, in full contradiction to that reaction and to the wide wave of protest that is swelling throughout the world, we see attempts by certain circles to continue to, well, to maintain their political combinations, including all sorts of deals, with Beijing, in the interests of the manufacturers of weapons and various dealers, who are seduced by the prospects of the so-called new opportunities for cooperation with China. It was well put by one observer who commented that, at a time when Chinese guns were being heard in the northern provinces of Vietnam, in the reception hall in Beijing bottles of champagne were also giving off rounds of continuous fire. This was in deference to such guests as U.S. Treasury Secretary Blumenthal and British Industry Secretary Varley, and Chairman Jenkins of the Common Market Commission. But however much they asserted that there is no connection at all between the Chinese attack on Vietnam and the problem of economic cooperation between Beijing and the West, surely the sinister clanking of the caterpillar tracks of the Chinese military machine has spoken and continues to speak louder than any words used to explain the so-called plan for the four modernizations of China and the corresponding economic stimulation from abroad. All of this, ultimately, serves this adventurist policy which has now been laid bare in all its clarity.

[Levin] A bourgeois scholar ironically remarked once that the main lesson of history is that people are inclined to ignore its lessons. This assertion is brought to mind now by the policies of certain Western circles, who are evidently hoping to warm themselves by the flame of Chinese aggression against Vietnam, and in doing so are rashly risking becoming the next victim of the aggressor and his adventurist policies.

In the 1930's when war broke out between militarist Japan and China, and Nazi Germany and facist Italy intervened in Spain, there were more than a few governments and politicians who wanted to wait until this fight, which they considered was not their's, came to an end. And so they preached noninterference, restraint and neutrality. And what happened? It was the people who had to pay most heavily for it.

History has taught snortsighted politicians a stern lesson. But today some of them are inclined to forget it. The British industry secretary, Varley, is carrying out negotiations on the delivery of arms, specifically Harrier fighters. Well, on this subject the newspaper LE NOUVEAU JOURNAL, a French newspaper, published an article which says that it is not just a question of the Harriers. And, by the way, it puts the number of plans requested by China at 160.

The article also says that the Chinese are asking a British firm, Vickers, for a license to produce first a prototype and then a first series of 600 tanks. At the same time, Beijing is asking the British for technical help in the construction of several tank factories in China. The Chinese are also interested in light tanks of the Scorpion types and (Scimitar) armored cars. Beijing is counting on buying about 1,000 pieces of artillery, and so on, and so on, and so on. In short, the impression is being created that Beijing is hoping to transform Britain into its arsenal, and one cannot help but be put on guard by the fact that the policies of the British ruling circles seem to be falling in with Beijing's desire.

China's Actions Harm Detente

[Shishlin] It seems to me that, well, what has been cited as a type of reaction to the Chinese aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam demonstrates that the picture here is not all that simple.

Really the reaction is varied. It runs from studied reaction, quite sober reaction, to some completely extreme and shortsighted calculations designed to derive certain political and commercial benefits. All the same, I think the most important thing is that the accent and leitmotif of the reactions--meaning, in this case, not only journalists' articles and articles by commentators but also the attitudes being taken by leading figures of a number of the capitalist and nonalined countries--the leitmotif is, really, that people are becoming more clearly aware that when, on 17 February, shots from Chinese guns rang out on the Chinese-Vietnamese border, the shells burst not only on Vietnamese soil: They were also bullets in the flesh of detente. And it's very important that people realize this. It's very important, too, to realize that an attempt to overturn detente is an essentially vain attempt.

SALT Talks

[Beglov] Yes, you're right, Nikolay Vladimirovich, in that, against the background of the arbitrary military action by the Chinese, against the background of this arbitrariness which has taken the form of the most outright aggression, people have begun to reflect in a new way on the significance of the tendencies in world politics that ought to lead the world to something quite different: to peaceful coexistence, to the nonuse of force and to a cessation of the arms race. And, for that reason, many prominent prople in the Western capitals and the capitals of the developing countries are becoming more and more acutely aware that new hitches in disarmament--such as the postponement or breakdown of the Soviet-American agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms--would, above all, serve the interests of the Chinese leaders, who would like to see in this the first practical result of their thoroughly adventurist policy.

[Levin] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev noted that, by their unprecedentedly impudent piratical attack on a small neighboring country, Socialist Vietnam, the present Beijing rulers have revealed to all the world the perfidious and aggressive nature of the great-power policy they are pursuing. Everyone can now see that the policy represents a serious threat to world peace. Now, more than ever, the full danger of any form of connivance with that policy is apparent.

[Beglov] But many circles throughout the world waited with all the more interest to see what Comrade Brezhnev would say in his speech on questions touching concretely and directly on the picture that is emerging: Questions concerning the cessation of the arms race, the fate of the Soviet-American agreement and the fate of detente on the European Continent. And it seems to me that what has been reaffirmed on the Soviet side has infused a new optimism and a new faith that detente is, indeed, on the right path--that a positive start has been made with, for example, the SALT-II agreement, if it is signed. It is clear from Comrade Brezhnev's speech that a fairly early date can now be set, and, whatever the particular imperfections of that treaty, it will create a certain barrier against the further stockpiling of the most destructive weapons and will, at the same time, serve to insure that the climate--the political climate--of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union--the political climate of East-West relations--is still more favorable for the taking of further steps along this course. And that is why an equal degree of attention has been given to the passages of Comrade Brezhnev's speech in which he spoke of the need to pull the Vienna talks on reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe out of the quagmire of dispute. These are new horizons of detente in the military sphere.

[Levin] I think it will not be superfluous to quote a statement by U.S. President Carter on the SALT agreement--a statement made, it's true, back in January, but it's none the worse for that.

The President said then that a refusal to ratify a new SALT agreement--he was addressing an American audience and was referring to the struggle between the supporters and opponents of that agreement within the United States--that a refusal to ratify the new agreement would deal a cruel blow to U.S.-Soviet relations and also--and this, I think, is a statement very worthy of attention--to the opinion of the United States held by peace-loving people in the small and developing countries all over the world. Indeed, at the meetings of West European politicians one always sees now an emphasis on the desire to see the strategic arms limitation agreement signed as soon as possible.

NATO 'Whipping Up' Arms Race

[Shishlin] Another aspect of this subject stands out: Who is responsible for holding back detente? Who is to blame for the fact that detente is not developing with the alacrity that we would like to see, and that the peoples have been expecting? And that responsibility, in the international commentaries, is being placed fair and square on NATO and the ruling circles of the United States, who are whipping up the arms race. It's a fact, after all, that while the Soviet Union has not increased the strength of its armed forces in Europe by a single soldier or a single tank, the United States and the NATO countries have, from year to year--and last year and this current year they have set records in this respect--have been unrestrainedly whipping up the arms race.

[Levin] Here's a relevant quote from the newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG: Carter's emissaries, the paper writes--actually, the emissaries of Zbigniew Brezezinski, David Aaron and others--are making a tour of the NATO countries for the purpose of expanding the summit conference in Guadeloupe. Incidentally, it now has come to light that what was discussed in Guadeloupe was the whipping-up of the arms race. With what plans is this U.S. 'special task force' travelling? It is foisting on Western Europe a program for the creation of an improved Persning missile, the Pershing-2 as it were, which would be turned into a medium-range missile. This, according to the intentions of the NATO strategists, would alter the strategic situation in Europe. A cruise missile is being planned, as well as a new intermediate-range ballistic missile, and so on. Of course, such steps are aimed directly against detente, and can only darken the good that has been achieved and hinder further progress.

[Shishlin] The view concerning the state of affairs at the talks on the reduction of arms and armed forces in central Europe was expressed very accurately by Comrade Breshnev. These talks are going on in Vienna. The 17th round of these talks is already in progress there. The thing is that for all intents and purposes the positions of the sides have drawn closer together. But at the same time the West, because of tactical considerations, is slowing down the adoption of decisions. And, you know, success here would be a great gain for Europe--a gain not only from the material point of view but primarily from the political perspective. It would create even more favorable conditions for advancing the development, not merely of the dialog, but the development of that same material fabric which serves as the visual expression of detente.

[Beglov] Solidarity with the cause of national liberation is also inseparable from the task of the struggle for peace. And the more complex the international situation becomes, the more important is the political interaction of all forces, including the countries which recently liberated themselves and have taken the road of independence, and those countries which are still going through the difficult process of establishing independence and are struggling against the imperialist swoops [naskok]. This is indicated by many events, including the events of the recent past in Africa. It is indicated by the lessons of Iran.

It is also indicated by the most acute struggle, both ideological and political, on the question of who in the world today stands, as the saying goes, on one side of the barricade of the national liberation movement and who is on the other side and is striving to draw attention away from their intrigues against the national liberation cause with all kinds of slander and inventions about the so-called Soviet expansionism, about the hand of Moscow and such like.

Brzezinski's 'Arc of Instability'

[Shishlin] Recently, a new political concept came into being. Its author is Zbigniew Brzezinski. It is the so-called arc of instability, which he discovered along the shores of the Indian Ocean and which also takes in the African coast. This arc of instability greatly worries Brzezinski and he is trying to create the impression that it is like a yoke which the Soviet Union is already placing on its shoulders [as heard] and, as a result, the whole length of this arc of instability is turning into a kind of arc of losses for the United States--losses of things which, properly speaking, do not belong to the United States. On the whole it should be said bluntly that here logic has, of course, been turned on its head.

Detente and social progress are completely compatible. What is not compatible is interference in the internal affairs of other states, the organization of intervention against independent sovereign states and attempts, somehow or other, by hook or by crook, to impose one's will on peoples who want to be masters in their own home.

U.S.-Iranian Affairs

[Levin] The New York TIMES cited the words of a U.S. diplomat who was leaving Tehran. When getting on the bus near the embassy building to go to the airport to join the other Americans leaving Iran, this diplomat said: You know, at one time we governed this country.

[Beglov] An interesting touch. That is the reverse side of the coin of interference and attempts to impose one's will on another people--when those who impose their will on another people and those who carry out this will in this country or that enter, so to speak, into a deal. A mutual guarantee.

Here is a story that is coming to light about something that happened when the representatives of the new Iranian Government were taking control of the Iranian Embassy in the United States. During a meeting with Barnes, a U.S. congressmen and a member of the House of Representatives, the head of the Iranian Embassy said: You know, we have discovered documents which indicate that dozens of U.S. political figures were supported by the shah's regime--there were bribes, permanent financial subsidies, trips, luxury trips and cruises throughout the world that were paid for by the shah's regime, right up to prostitution and blackmail. This is what the representative of the new Iranian Government said. One can see how the interests of imperialism and those who perform in the role of its mercenary and client are interwoven in this mixture of things and how justified is the wrath of the people when they rise up against this high-handedness and against this corruption.

[Shishlin] Yes, in this respect the whole matter lies, of course, not in the winds which blow from the outside, but in those storms that arise on national soil and which ultimately sweep away rotten regimes.

Soviet Peace Policy

[Levin] In striving to make reliable provisions for the Soviet people and their allies and friends to live and work in conditions of peace, the CPSU and the Soviet state inseparably link this goal with universal security and lasting peace throughout the world. Therefore, many international observers noted that Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech offered a balanced approach to international problems. They saw in the speech a fresh source for optimism and confidence in the trimph of the cause of detente and the cause of strengthening peace. In his speech, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev stressed that the Soviet Union is conducting and will continue to conduct its entire foreign policy in close alliance with the fraternal socialist states, drawing support from the independent and freedom-loving countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America and cooperating with all the peace-loving states and public forces in the capitalist part of the world. Our aim is to achieve lasting peace and security for the Soviet people and lasting peace and peaceful cooperation among all states in the world. And, therefore, many observers saw in Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech an impulse for confidence in the triumph of the cause of detente and in the fact that, despite all the difficulties with which the process of detente is now coming up against it can and must prevail.

There we end our broadcast. Good-bye, comrades. All the best to you.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES PRC INVASION OF SRV

Soviet Delegate's Statement

LD021603 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[TASS reports under general headline: "End the Criminal Aggression. UN Security Council Discusses the Situation in Southeast Asia in Connection With the Chinese Incursion into Vietnam--boldface as published]

[Excerpts] New York, 28 February--Resolute demands for an end to the adventure of the Beijing rulers, who have unleashed a bloody war against the heroic Vietnamese people, have once again been voiced in the UN Security Council, where discussion continues on the Southeast Asian situation in connection with the Chinese aggression against Vietnam.

The heroic Vietnamese people, O.A. Troyanovskiy, the Soviet Union's permanent UN representative, said, are confident of victory. They are relying on the support of their faithful and reliable friends--the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and all peace-loving states. The Beijing leaders are seeking to conceal their criminal aims from the world public and their own people and are camouflaging the aggression with assertions that it is merely "a restricted military action." However, the facts testify to the opposite. Beijing is obviously working toward dragging out the aggression and is openly stating its intention of seizing a considerable part of Vietnamese territory.

IN ORDER TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS, THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE STRESSED, THE SECURITY COUNCIL MUST ADOPT A CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS POSITION OF CONDEMNATION OF THE CHINESE AGGRESSION. IT IS ONLY THROUGH THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE AGGRESSOR'S TROOPS THAT THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IN THAT REGION CAN BE INSURED AND THE THREAT OF A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION CAN BE AVERTED, O.A. TROYANOVSKIY WENT ON TO SAY. ANY PROPOSALS WHICH CONFINE THEMSELVES TO GENERAL CALLS BUT CONTAIN NO CONDEMNATION OF THE AGGRESSOR OR DEMANDS FOR A WITHDRAWAL OF HIS TROOPS CAN ONLY LEAD TO THE AGGRESSOR CONSOLIDATING HIMSELF ON THE SEIZED TERRITORY, AS HAS REPEATEDLY HAPPENED IN THE PAST.

AFTER EXPRESSING PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO THE SPEAKERS WHO SUPPORTED THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE AGAINST THE CHINESE REACTIONARIES, WHO HAVE EMBARKED ON AN ALLIANCE WITH IMPERIALISM, SRV PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE MA VAN LAU URGED THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO STERNLY CONDEMN THE BEIJING INTERVENTIONISTS, TO INSURE THE WITHDRAWAL OF CHINESE TROOPS FROM VIETNAMESE TERRITORY AND TO FORCE CHINA TO RESPECT VIETNAM'S INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

Hanoi, 28 February--Today NHAN DAN has published an editorial entitled "The Only Aggressor Who Must Be Exposed Is the Reactionary Clique of China's Ruling Circles."

The course of combat operations in the last 10 days and the world public's indignation and deep concern, NHAN DAN writes, testify that this war is a large-scale aggressive war by Chinese expansionism and hegemonism--a war which poses a serious danger to the peace and security of the peoples of Southeast Asia and the whole world. As an organization with tremendous responsibility to the cause of preserving peace and international security, the UN Security Council cannot fail to condemn the Chinese aggressors and must force them to withdraw their troops from SRV territory unconditionally and immediately.

The cooperation and mutual support of imperialism and the clique of Beijing aggressors became perfectly clear when Deng Xiaoping expressed his "wholehearted approval" of the proposals put forward in the UN Security Council calling on China to withdraw its troops from Vietnam and on Vietnam to "withdraw its troops" from Kampuchea.

It is perfectly obvious that Beijing, just like Washington, has not yet resigned itself to the fall of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary genocide regime overthrown by the Kampuchean people. It is perfectly obvious that, with a view to encouraging and aiding the clique of Beijing aggressors, imperialist forces are attempting to mislead the world public by linking the question of the Chinese aggression against Vietnam with the question of Kampuchea, whose people, with the support of the Vietnamese people, rose in struggle to eliminate the yoke of the neocolonialist dominance of Chinese expansionism in the name of their vital rights. These forces are attempting to divert the blame for the crimes from the clique of Chinese aggressors and to shield them by slandering Vietnam for aiding Kampuchea.

These attempts will certainly be defeated. The firm voice of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries--Czechoslovakia, Poland, Cuba--and also the Republic of India has rung out directly from the UN rostrum in defense of the Vietnamese people's just cause. The Soviet Government has warned the clique of Chinese aggressors that it must stop before it is too late.

Receiving mighty support and aid from the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and enjoying the sympathy of all mankind which cherishes freedom and justice, NHAN DAN stresses, the Vietnamese people will deliver worthy retaliatory strikes against the clique of Chinese aggressors and are fully determined to fight until the aggressor has been driven out of our territory.

Kornilov Discusses Deadlock

LD30017 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1825 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--TASS political observer Yuriy Kornilov writes:

Deadlock is the description used by most of the international press to characterize the results of the UN Security Council meeting which discussed the situation in Southeast Asia brought about by the Chinese aggression against Vietnam.

The description is caustic, but, unfortunately, accurate, as the Security Council after a five-day debate failed nevertheless to arrive at a resolution which would unambiguously condemn the aggressor and help to restore peace in Southeast Asia. But who is to blame?

The debate revaled two different and irreconcilable approaches to the problem under discussion. One of them was demonstrated by the principled and consistent position of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, as well as Laos, Angola, India and a number of other states which are resolutely demanding an end to Beijing's aggression against the neighboring sovereign state, as well as an immediate withdrawal of the Chinese troops from Vietnam. This position reflects the demands of millions of people on all continents who are explicitly condemning the aggressor who, by its piratical attack on Vietnam, violated the accepted principles of international law and the UN Charter.

The debate also demonstrated a diametrically opposite line reflecting the desire of certain Western quarters, primarily the United States, to support the aggressor if only indirectly, and encourage its hegemonic ambitions. It is in this light that one should view the speech by the U.S. ambassador at the United Nations, Andrew Young, who, in fact, repeating Beijing's slanderous contention about Vietnam's alleged aggressiveness, was trying to put the aggressor and its victim on a par. The same approach should be used in interpreting the attempts by representatives of the U.S. and some other states, including a number of ASEAN countries subjected to Washington pressure, who were trying, without any justification, to link China's intrusion into Vietnam with the situation in Kampuchea, whose people toppled the bloody regime of Pol Pot and began the rebirth of their country.

Naturally, today, when the huge wave of protest against Beijing's aggression is growing throughout the world, even those who would like to support Beijing and whitewash its barbaric, aggressive actions do not dare do this openly but prefer to resort to tacking and maneuvering and all sorts of propaganda tricks. But are not the claims that, if the Chinese incursion into the SRV has not yet ceased, the responsibility for this is borne not by the Beijing leadership but...by the Vietnamese who, in defending their home, are giving the invaders a worthy rebuff, a de facto connivance in the aggression? And after all, if I may say so, just such a "position" was laid out at the UN Security Council.

The results of the Security Council meeting not only proved the undeniable fact that the overwhelming majority of UN members resolutely condemn the aggression by Beijing which today acts in the international arena as a destructive factor in world politics. The results also demonstrate that the Beijing leadership has overt and covert, willing or unwilling supporters and patrons in their invasion of Vietnam. This cannot but give rise to deep concern and alarm.

Now that the Chinese rulers, by launching their aggression against Vietnam, have fully exposed their treacherous and hegemonic policy, it becomes absolutely clear how dangerous are all forms of supporting the aggressors and their unbridled big-power aspirations. The problem is, in fact, in the choice between war and peace, in the approach towards problems concerning the destiny of the peoples of the world. And this approach should be used by the peoples to judge about how responsible is the attitude of various governments, states or politicians to the problems of preserving peace.

UNITED STATES

WARREN CHRISTOPHER ADMITS U.S. FOREKNOWLEDGE OF PRC ATTACK

LD031326 Moscow in English to North America 0001 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

[Text] A Japanese newspaper, MAINICHI DAILY NEWS, reports that the American Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is now visiting Delhi, has admitted that China had told the United States in various ways of their current operation against Vietnam. Meanwhile, only a day before this statement, another State Department representative, H. Carter, speaking to newsmen in Washington categorically denied that China had warned the United States about her plan to attack Vietnam. He declared that such assertions allegedly did not accord with reality. Reporting these contradictive statements, a TASS correspondent notes that apparently the United States diplomatic service cannot decide how to extract themselves from the difficult situation in which they have been placed by Deng Xiaoping's frank statements, which he did not make accidentally, during his visit to the United States.

REJOINDERS SCORE OFFICIALS' REMARKS ON PRC-SRV CONFLICT

Zhukov Rejoinder to Senator Byrd

LD021623 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 79 p 5 LD

[Yuriy Zhukov article under "Rejoinder" rubric: "There Will Be No Laurels"]

[Text] Senate Democratic Majority Leader Robert Byrd has just permitted himself to declare that the Soviet Union...is partially responsible for the current fighting in Vietnam. That's really what he said!

One is really amazed when reading such statements: How can a responsible Senate leader behave in such an irresponsible way? Seemingly, in the U.S. Congress they do not want to draw lessons from the earlier errors, which hit so hard the prestige of that supreme legislative body of the United States. Have they absolutely forgotten the disgraceful story of the "Tonkin resolution," adopted on August 7, 1964, which falsely accused the Vietnamese of attacking American warships? That provocative resolution which was allegedly designed "to ensure the maintenance of peace and security in Southeast Asia" was adopted to sanction an undeclared war against Vietnam.

After the disgraceful failure of American aggression the Congress was compelled to admit that the "Tonkin resolution" was false, and in January 1971 it cancelled it. But it was in action throughout the whole period of that dirty war, being the only "legal justification" for dispatching American troops to Vietnam!

Obviously, that failure has not been enough for some people, and in the capitol they are again looking for some ghost that can be used to mislead over for a short period of time public opinion and to lessen its protests against Chinese aggression in Vietnam. And then--they do not care a fig. Really, Mr Byrd, is it not clear that such a policy will bring laurels neither to those who have ventured new aggression in Vietnam nor to those who support it?

IZVESTIYA Scores Secretary Brown

LD021005 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Feb 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

["Rejoinder" from "The Day Worldwide" review compiled by R. Tuchnin: "Muddying the Water"]

[Text] Beijing is waging a large-scale aggressive war against Vietnam. However, certain statesmen and politicians in the West, who continue to flirt with the Chinese leadership, would very much like to conceal this obvious fact. That is why wherever possible they slip in a story about the "limited nature" of Beijing's military operations on Vietnamese soil.

The Chinese military are forcing their way deep into Vietnam, and during the aggression have already advanced 30 kilometers in some places. Yet according to these people they are allegedly only marking time near the border to "teach Vietnam a lesson."

Beijing is sending new reinforcements to the assistance of battered units, and the numerical strength of its troops has now reached more than 200,000 men, yet these gentlemen continue to talk hypocritically about isolated "border" clashes."

An example of such concealment of the true scale of the Chinese invasion of Vietnam is provided by the words of U.S. Secretary of Defense Brown, who stated in a television interview that the armed operations by the Chinese military "do not exceed the bounds of a border conflict."

No plausible motives explain such "soothing" speeches--they are objectively playing into the aggressor's hands and encouraging him to perpetrate new crimes.

COMMENTARIES CRITICIZE U.S. SUPPORT FOR PRC AGGRESSION

Kozyakov Commentary

LD021244 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] Now it is obvious that the process of the normalization of American-Chinese relations on the one hand and the unleashing of Beijing's aggression against Vietnam on the other are closely connected. To begin with, the upcoming invasion was announced by the Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping during his stay in the United States and right after his talks with the administration's leaders. And the schedule of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries was being worked out when everybody in Washington knew about Beijing's plans to teach Vietnam a bloody lesson. So it is not accidental that today's official opening of embassies in Beijing and in Washington has coincided with the Chinese aggression against a neighboring country. The impression has been created that it was planned beforehand, that a senior official of the United States administration Michael Blumenthal would be in Beijing on 1 March to demonstrate America's backing of Chinese policy of invasion. And thus Secretary of Treasury Michael Blumenthal headed the ceremoney in Beijing today while the Chinese leaders were issuing orders to burn down Vietnamese villages and to kill civilian population. It is another indication that the United States is actually backing the Chinese aggressors.

According to President Carter's statement at a press conference in the White House the other day, there is no disharmony in relations between the United States and China. Let's recall in this connection that the present-day foreign policy pursued by Beijing is based on dangerous and inhuman Maoist conceptions. China regards a new world war as inevitable and even desirable. China has territorial claims to practically all neighboring countries. China rejects all the proposals on limiting and cutting arms. China is opposed to the relaxation of tensions and is trying to inspire military conflicts wherever possible. The current aggression against Vietnam has shown that the Beijing leaders are playing with fire and ignoring the tragic consequences it might have for the peoples of the world.

It is truly difficult to imagine that the views of any responsible politician may be in harmony with the Chinese leadership's attitude towards international relations. The well-known lessons of history show that to maintain general peace, it is necessary to isolate any government which is pursuing a policy of aggression. In the period prior to World War II, some Western powers were helping Nazi Germany to prepare an aggressive war. They rejected all Soviet proposals to prevent Germany's invasion, because they were playing the German card against the Soviet Union. That policy led to a devastating war which cost mankind 50 million lives. Now in the nuclear age the playing of the China card by the American policymakers is even more dangerous to world peace.

Bolshakov on White House Statements

LD030404 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Vladimir Bolshakov commentary]

[Text] At his White House press conference on 28 February, President Carter expressed the formal U.S. stand on the Chinese aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He described it as just a crossing of the Vietnam border by the Chinese and said the United States had expressed its disapproval to Beijing over this move. This and other statements by top-ranking U.S. officials can only be taken as attempts to prove that the United States has nothing to do with playing the China card. Such claims cut no ice with people who know the facts of the situation. The WALL STREET JOURNAL, for example, takes the view that the United States has practically supported the Chinese incursion into Vietnam.

An interesting report has also appeared in the French weekly (the "S.D."). It says President Carter and National Security Adviser Brzezinski knew in advance about Chinese plans of aggression against Vietnam. But the United States leaders did not say a word about their disapproval of those Chinese plans during their meetings with Deng Xiaoping. This being so, the senior vice-premier was able to convince the CCP Politburo in his return from the United States that the Americans had no objections to the Maoist punitive operation, which boiled down to an outright aggression against Vietnam. The French weekly points out that it was Zbigniew Brzezinski who masterminded the China card tactics as part of a global U.S. anti-Soviet strategy. The French weekly points at Zbigniew Brzezinski as a man who signalled Deng Xiaoping to go ahead with the attack on Vietnam.

United States support for the Chinese aggression is also betrayed by the visit to Beijing by the treasury secretary, Blumenthal. The United States official chose the height of the Beijing aggression as a suitable time for attending the opening ceremony of the United States Embassy in China. The New York TIMES had every reason to say that Blumenthal's presence in Beijing at this time, while the fighting continues, would be taken by Moscow as a manifestation of indirect U.S. support for the incursion. One must only add at this point that not only in Moscow but all over the world people take this view of the situation, which is proved by mounting international public protest against the Chinese aggression. People everywhere can now see with their own eyes that Washington pursues a double-dealing policy on this and other issues, including the problem of human rights, which is so often mentioned by United States officials speaking about U.S. relations with the countries of the socialist community.

Washington officials have nothing to say about human rights when dealing with the problem of playing the China card or when they endorse the Chinese aggression against Vietnam. This in spite of the fact that people in China are denied some basic human rights and to say nothing of the Chinese leaders' trampling underfoot the rights of the Vietnamese. Chinese troops invading Vietnam commit atrocities against (?defenseless) civilians. This should give the United States champions of human rights an excellent opportunity to intervene. But they do no such thing. As it is, the Chinese are able to pursue their criminal aggression under the benevolent eyes of the American leaders.

Soltan on U.S.-PRC Relations

LD031908 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Last Thursday ceremonies were held in Washington and Beijing to open the embassies of China and the United States. That completed the process of restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countires. Our Washington correspondent Yuriy Soltan has sent in this report:

This was an untimely act in the present conditions, said Senator Charles Mathias, who was speaking in a Senate debate on the candidacy of the American ambassador to Beijing, Leonard Woodcock. The senator urged his colleagues to tell the Chinese clearly and unequivocally that they cannot start a war and expect a boom in relations with America. But both the White House and the capitol refused to heed such sober and well-justified voices.

The Washington administration is continuing a policy of encouraging the Chinese aggressors. It is true, though, that from time to time calls are being made to stop the military operations in Indochina, but these are merely formal calls. The capitalist American press takes joy in the success of a mission to Beijing by the U.S. Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal. At a time when the Chinese invaders are trampling Vietnamese soil, destroying defenseless towns and committing atrocities against civilians, a White House envoy agrees in Beijing on broad American-Chinese economic cooperation, actually promising to give aid to the aggressor.

At the United Nations American representatives are making every effort to prevent effective measures to stop the Chinese aggression, which amounts to defending and justifying China and making attacks on the victim of its aggression--that is, Vietnam.

Criticism of U.S.-PRC 'Rapprochement'

LD021211 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Feb 79 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Dangerous Course Condemned"]

[Text] New York, 26 February--The American press and many right-minded U.S. politicians are warning of the danger of "rapprochement" between Washington and Beijing for the fate of peace, the relaxation of tension and curbing the arms race. The aggression unleashed by the Chinese rulers against Vietnam is assessed as the result of the shortsighted course adopted by Washington, which virtually took the line of encouraging Beijing's expansionist aspirations.

"The Chinese attack on Vietnam," the New York POST points out, "is the first fruit of our policy of playing the 'Chinese card,' and by all appearances Beijing shuffled the deck." The fact that official Washington did not react to Deng Xiaoping's statement on China's intention of "teaching Vietnam a bloody lesson" is regarded by the newspaper as tacit U.S. support for the Beijing leaders' hegemonist line.

Fears are being voiced in the United States that the American-Chinese "rapprochement" is fraught with new complications in the international arena and with the danger of seriously destroying the balance of forces which has become established in the world, and in the last analysis the danger of military conflict. "China," the NEW REPUBLIC notes, "demands much more from us than simply friendship or assistance in modernization. It wants us to renounce detente and join it in its hostility toward the Soviet Union. China believes war with the USSR to be inevitable and wants to involve us in that war." The magazine points out the danger of Beijing's demands for modern weapons and of the Western countries' intention of satisfying these solicitations.

The Chinese aggressors' brazen invasion of Socialist Vietnam is regarded by a number of observers as the logical consequence of the line which Deng Xiaoping preached in Washington with tacit U.S. approval. "Even now, when many countries have condemned Beijing's aggression against Vietnam, the U.S. administration is trying to take China's side," the DAILY WORLD writes.

The Washington POST recalls the statements of Deng Xiaoping, who made flagrant attacks on the USSR, detente policy and the Soviet-American strategic arms limitation agreement which is under preparation, and called for an "alliance" between the United States, the NATO countries, Japan and China. In the newspaper's opinion, people must not become intoxicated by "Deng's extremely hostile views with respect to the Soviet Union." "If they are approached soberly," the Washington POST believes, "it becomes clear that they are dictated by China's own selfish interests...."

E. Holtzman, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, who visited Vietnam the other day, stated: On the basis of personal impressions I came to the alarming conclusion that the Chinese attack on Vietnam is not merely a border conflict, but an aggressive war. Holtzman stressed that not a policy of complicity with the Chinese aggressors but recognition by the U.S. Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam would help to end the Chinese intervention.

Democratic Senator G. McGovern warned in an interview for the New York TIMES that the actions of those U.S. circles which directly or indirectly promoted China's attack on Vietnam constitute a serious threat to the cause of peace. "I am extremely concerned at China's aggression against Vietnam; it is an extraordinarily dangerous step," he stated.

SENATOR CHURCH OPPOSES MAKING EGYPT 'MIDDLE EAST COLOSSUS'

LD031020 Moscow TASS in English 0857 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Washington, March 3, TASS--Senator Frank Church, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, sharply criticized the U.S. administration's plan to establish a new military alliance in the Middle East to protect American political and strategic interests after the downfall of the shah's regime which was the United States' mainstay in this region. Any plan by the administration to turn Egypt into a new regional military power is certain to be blocked in Congress, Senator Church said during hearings in the committee. "The last thing we should be doing is to attempt to make Egypt a new military colossus in the Middle East," said the senator.

Frank Church had in view reports that As-Sadat gave the Pentagon chief Harold Brown a long list of arms which it would like to have in exchange for Egypt's commitment to discharge the functions of a "gendarme" in the Middle East. This list includes 300 advanced F-16 fighters, 500 tanks, 2,000 armoured personnel carriers, combat helicopters, artillery and C-130 military transport planes. The senator expressed confidence that Congress would not vote funds to pay for Egypt's multi-billion dollar arms shopping list.

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT URGES PRC WITHDRAWAL FROM SRV-LAO BORDER

LD021830 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1802 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Here now follows the Soviet Government's statement:

Chinese aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam continues to expand. At the same time reports are coming in about the concentration of Chinese troops along the border with the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Chinese military units are being transferred, in particular, to the region where the borders of Laos and Vietnam join.

Subversive intelligence and sabotage activities by the Chinese agents in Laos' border regions has been stepped up. All this means that the threat of Chinese intervention now also hangs over the Lao people, people who side by side with their Vietnamese brothers fought for freedom and independence against American imperialist intervention. The fact that the Lao people value their independence, that they have brought their country onto the path of socialist construction, that they have established peaceful, friendly relations with their neighbors is clearly at variance with the Chinese leadership's hegemonistic designs. The threat to Laos is a threat to the independence and sovereignty of all the states of Southeast Asia. The person who raises his hand against the peace-loving Lao people, who have never in history caused anyone any harm, will not stop at further military adventures.

The perfidy of the present rulers of China and their hegemonist aims are presented in all their nakedness. At the same time it is again confirmed what dangerous consequences are entailed by a policy of complicity with aggression which is being pursued by some states.

The situation insistently demands an unconditional and immediate halt to Chinese aggression, but the governments of these states are instead at present undertaking fresh steps to strengthen their contacts with China, including deals for the sale of modern weaponry. Instead of heeding the voice of good sense and the demands of the broad circles of the world public, which are expressing anger and indignation at the actions of China, which is flouting all norms of civilized relations between states, they are to all intents and purposes encouraging the aggressor. But no one should forget that such a policy is fraught with grave consequences; and by no means least for those who are pursuing it. History has already provided numerous examples of this.

At present, when China's course aimed at expanding the aggression is becoming more and more obvious, the Soviet Union considers it necessary to state with all certainty: China's actions cannot leave indifferent those who have a genuine interest in insuring the security of peoples and preserving peace.

Chinese troops must immediately be withdrawn from the confines of Vietnam and military demonstrations on the borders of Laos and preparations for an incursion into this country must be stopped. The Chinese aggressors should know that the more crimes they commit, the more severely they will have to pay for them.

ZHUKOV PRAVDA ARTICLE DENOUNCES PRC WAR PROVOCATIONS

LD050750 Moscow TASS in English 0658 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

["Beijing Placing Stake on Instigating War"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 5, TASS--"The attempts of the Beijing leaders to instigate the USSR and the other socialist countries to a new world war, at whose flames Beijing could warm its hands, have proved to be a failure," writes Yuriy Zhukov, PRAVDA's political observer, in the newspaper today.

The Soviet Union, Zhukov writes, has in time perceived the perfidious design of the Beijing leaders and has not yielded to their provocations aimed at instigating a clash between our country and the United States, with Beijing reserving for itself the stand of a "third rejoicing side."

It was and is believed in Beijing, the article goes on to say, that a world conflagration, in which the major powers of the world would clash, while China would stand aside, would be the best means for achieving far-reaching Chinese domination.

But when the Beijing leaders convinced themselves that they are unable to use Vietnam, "for the attainment of Chinese aims," in the first place for reaching their aggressive aims in Southeast Asia, the observer points out, they started subversive activity against Vietnam and then, emboldened by U.S. support, unleashed an open aggressive war against Vietnam.

The recent developments, the article says in conclusion, have cooled many hot heads in Washington. The Americans begin to realized that their new "ally" is dragging them to the brink of an abyss.

VICTOR LOUIS: USSR WILL INTERVENE UNLESS PRC WITHDRAWS FROM SRV

DW022030 Hamburg BILD in German 2 Mar 79 pp 1, 6 DW

[Article by Soviet journalist Victor Louis]

[Text] In the war between China and Vietnam the Soviet Union allegedly intends to send "volunteers" to Vietnam. A fierce battle flared up yesterday over the town of Lang Son, the gate to Hanoi. Read what well-known Soviet journalist Victor Louis writes on the subject in BILD:

The following is being discussed in the West: Will the Soviet Union intervene militarily in Indochina to help its ally Vietnam against the Chinese? In my opinion there is hardly any doubt that the Soviet Government will not let the matter rest with sharp words and threats unless China ends the war as quickly as possible. The Soviet Union has always stood loyally by its allies.

Another question also has been raised in the West: Can the Chinese win the war? I do not think so. Their obsolete arms (some of them are 20 years old) from Soviet arms production are totally inferior to those of the Vietnamese. Vietnam has highly modern war material from captured U.S. Army stocks, and the Vietnamese are continuously supplied with the most modern Soviet arms. Sooner or later the question will come up as to who is teaching whom a punitive lesson.

Many Chinese units are surrounded on Vietnamese territory. The Vietnamese are using tactics developed by the Russians in the last world war: cutting off their supply lines.

I am sure that the Chinese at the end of the war will be the bloody losers and for a long time to come will have no strength left for another military attack.

BLUMENTHAL IN BEIJING REACHES AGREEMENT ON FINANCIAL CLAIMS

LD030408 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] China and the United States have agreed on a settlement of their mutual financial claims. American corporations will be compensated for their property nationalized by the Chinese Government, while China's assets in the United States will be released.

REUTER reports that this agreement was reached during the visit to Beijing by the United States Secretary of the Treasury, Michael Blumenthal. On Friday he left Beijing for Shanghai. Agreement has also been reached on long-term trade and on the setting up of a joint committee on bilateral economic relations. Commenting on the results of Mr Blumenthal's visit, AFP stresses that at the farewell banquet he did not utter a word about China's attack against Vietnam.

COMMENTARY ASSAILS EGYPTIAN-PRC 'RAPPROCHEMENT'

LD021604 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1200 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "Motives for the Rapprochement Between As-Sadat's Regime and Beijing"]

[Text] Official Cairo has sent its envoy to Beijing, and is reviewing its rapprochement with the PRC at a time when all progressive and peace-loving forces in the world are angrily and indignantly condemning China's aggression against Socialist Vietnam. What is involved here is the visit of Egyptian Deputy Premier Hasan Muhammad at-Tuhami to China. He was received by Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping. During this meeting the Chinese leader once again affirmed Beijing's support for the separate capitulation policy of the Egyptian leadership. Deng Xiaoping even claimed that it was not imperialism or Zionism which was threatening the Arab peoples. As for the envoy of official Cairo, he (?supported) Beijing's aggression against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Naturally, a question arises here: How could As-Sadat's regime support the aggression against valiant Vietnam, with whose struggle the Egyptian and other Arab peoples stood in warm solidarity for many years? It is known that the Egyptian people themselves have suffered from foreign aggression and have been unable to regain their territory usurped by the aggressor. Then how does the present Egyptian leadership stand on the side of the aggressor and the usurper of the territories of others?

The answers to all these questions lie within the policy of As-Sadat's regime, which, a few years ago, actually removed Egypt from the Arabs' common struggle against the aggressor, with whom it began separate negotiations and to whom it is currently making one capitulatory concession after another. As long as As-Sadat's regime continues to disregard the prerequisites of the common Arab struggle for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories, then it is not strange that it now supports the Chinese aggression against Vietnam. There is also a fundamental reason for the rapprochement between As-Sadat's regime and the Chinese expansionists, which is that a long time ago Beijing left the world anti-imperialist front and pursued a course of (?various deals) with the most reactionary forces in the contemporary world, such as the (?racialist regime of Pretoria) in South Africa.

The present Egyptian leadership is currently heading toward this course; for it recently expressed its willigness to Washington to make its country a gendarme force in the Middle East or in the Arabian gulf region. The famous adage goes: Birds of a feather flock together. Both Beijing and Cairo now are serving one master, the imperialist quarters in the United States and the other Western countries. The leaderships of both countries have come to be on the other side of the (?trenches) of the struggle for freedom, independence, progress and peace. This results in the rapprochement between them and leads them to take part in dirty deals and adventures against the peace-loving peoples.

PRC PREPARING FOR AGGRESSION AGAINST LAOS

Supporting Lao Splittists

OW032207 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 3 Mar 79 OW

[Shalygin commentary]

[Text] Beijing expansionists have long cast covetous eyes on Laos. A map published in China shows that some of the territory of this Southeast Asian country is designated as belonging to China. Beijing has also used underhanded methods to support its agents, the national splittists, in Laos. Vang Pao, their leader, secretly visited China to discuss with Chinese leaders Chinese support for the establishment of a so-called "permanently neutral Laos."

The independent policy pursued by Laos on the world stage runs counter to the wish of the Beijing hegemonists. This Southeast Asian country has maintained friendly relations with its neighboring state, Vietnam, and has cooperated constructively with the ASEAN countries. It has also welcomed the victory of the Kampuchean people in overthrowing the Pol Pot fascist clique and the founding of the Kampuchean People's Republic.

Like many other countries, Laos has justly condemned China's brutal aggression against Vietnam. The Vientiane paper SIANG PASASON pointed out that the traitorous act of the Chinese invasion across Vietnamese border cannot be taken merely as a border conflict. It declared that it has seriously damaged the unity and brotherly friendship of the peoples of China, Vietnam and Laos and posed a direct threat to the security of Laos.

Reports that Chinese troops are massing near the Laotian border shows that Beijing is not above using its war of aggression against Vietnam to realize its expansionist scheme against Vietnam's neighbor, independent Laos. The U.S. imperialists previously did so in Indochina. Obviously, the Chinese leaders are following the example of the U.S. policy of imperialism and aggression. After attacking Vietnamese troops the U.S. imperialists expanded the war to other Indochina states.

As we all know, the target of Beijing's expansion is not confined to Indochinese countries alone, but also to the countries of ASEAN. The countries which Mao Zedong clamored [words indistinct] include Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and other countries which do not want to follow Beijing's orders. Beijing has used criminal splittists and extremists to subvert these countries. It is very possible that China's armed invasion of Vietnam and its preparations for interference in Laos are only [words indistinct] in its aggression against Southeast Asia. In the next stage, the ASEAN countries will be forced to encounter its aggressive troops.

Seeking To Outflank Vietnam

LD021806 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1330 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Vasiliy Fedorov commentary]

[Excerpts] In the summer of 1978 the self-appointed [Lao] General Vang Pao secretly visited China, the man who had headed the CIA clandestine army in Laos. There he discussed plans of dismembering the Lao People's Democratic Republic and of setting up on part of its territory a puppet pro-Beijing Meo kingdom. Subversion against Laos is another instance of the close collaboration of the Beijing authorities with the ruling circles of the United States. The Beijing leaders are hopeful that those rebellious units would serve as the fifth column when the Chinese troops cross into Laos.

The territory of the Lao People's Democratic Republic looks to them as a corridor of a sort through which they will not only be able to hit Vietnam at its flank but cross into Kampuchea and reach the Gulf of Siam. And that, they calculate, will open broader opportunities for their further expansion in Asia. Laos is well aware of those plans. It is also fully aware that to thwart them, solidarity of all the peace-loving countries of the region is essential. The government and people of Laos resolutely condemn China's aggression in Vietnam and demand an undelayed and unconditional withdrawal of the aggressor troops from Vietnam's territory. At the same time, observes the newspaper SIANG PASASON in Vientiane, in the face of the treacherous and hypocritical enemy maneuvers, we should build up our defenses to protect our security.

SOVIET, FRENCH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTERS MEET, SIGN CONTRACT

LD021542 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] On 1 March talks took place between USSR Foreign Trade Minister Patolichev and French Foreign Trade Minister Deniau. Questions pertaining to the further development of trade and economic relations were discussed and the two sides continued their work on the preparation of a new long-term program for the deepening of economic, industrial and technical cooperation between the USSR and France for the period up to 1990 and on a new agreement on economic cooperation between the two countries.

A contract for the delivery to the USSR of equipment for the production of a new type of telephone exchange was also signed on 1 March.

Kosygin Receives Deniau

LD021346 Moscow TASS in English 1335 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Aleksey Kosygin today received in the Kremlin Foreign Trade Minister of France Jean-Francois Deniau, now in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Foreign Trade Ministry of the USSR. He handed over to Aleksey Kosygin a message from Prime Minister of France Raymond Barre.

An exchange of opinions was held on a number of questions of further deepening cooperation between the USSR and France in the light of the coming Moscow Soviet-French summit negotiations. Confidence was expressed from both sides that the negotiations would be a major contribution to the development of Soviet-French relations in different spheres.

Some topical international problems were touched upon and the need of ensuring peace and stability in various parts of the globe was emphasized.

Foreign Trade Minister of the USSR Nikolay Patolichev, France's ambassador in the USSR Bruno de Leusse and other officials took part in a talk which passed in a friendly atmosphere.

USSR, NETHERLANDS SIGN PROTOCOL ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

LD021620 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1255 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The Hague--A mixed Soviet-Netherlands commission for cooperation in the economic, industrial and technical spheres signed a protocol here today at the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Speaking at the signing of the protocol B. de Groot, director general of administration for internal economic relations in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, noted that the mixed Soviet-Netherlands commission has done positive work in the strengthening of economic cooperation between the two countries.

USSR, UK SIGN CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC ACCORD 1 MARCH

LD021056 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1747 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] London, 1 March, TASS--An agreement between the USSR and Great Britain on links in science, education and culture for the period of 1 April 1979 to 1 April 1981 was signed here today.

The agreement provides for the further development of cooperation in culture, art, cinema, television, radio broadcasting, sports and tourism, and in various spheres of science and education at different levels, including the study of Russian (?in Britain and English) [words indistinct] in the USSR.

In addition, in accordance with the agreement, exchanges will be implemented on the level of nongovernmental organizations, including trade union, youth, student and women's organizations and contacts will also take place between Soviet and British towns.

MOSCOW VIEWS RESULTS OF SPANISH LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

Democratization Policy

LD030344 Moscow in Spanish to Spain 2000 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In little more than 2 years after December 1976, when the law on political reform was voted upon, the Spanish electorate has gone to the polls for the fourth time. As expected, the main fight for votes was between the Union of the Democratic Center [UCD] and the socialist and communist parties in the opposition. The preliminary results of the elections to Spain's highest legislative body lead to some conclusions.

The two greatest political powers of the country, the ruling UCD and the opposition Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE], maintained their majority positions in the legislature. The UCD, however, did not obtain an absolute majority. The PCE, which defends the basic interests of the workers, achieved a resounding victory. Its candidates received almost 11 percent of the vote and obtained 25 seats in the Congress of Deputies. [figure as heard] Throughout the election campaign the communists supported a broad coalition government with the participation of the PCE in the elaboration of the future government's program.

An overwhelming majority of the Spanish electorate supported the policy of democratization of national life and the solution of the critical socioeconomic problems on a democratic basis. These problems are primarily economic difficulties, unemployment, inflation, high prices and the lack of solutions to national problems. In their election speeches, Adolfo Suarez, leader of the UCD and prime minister, and Felipe Gonzalez, secretary general of the PSOE, repeatedly declared that if they won the elections their parties would solve the basic problems of the country and would apply a policy aimed at developing and deepening democracy.

The rightwing parties were severely damaged in these elections. The democratic coalition opposed the democratization of the country and tried to present the difficulties facing Spain as a direct consequence of the policy of democratization. According to preliminary results, the coalition of Fraga Iribarne received less than 6 percent of the vote and the forces which favour the return to the former regime suffered a crushing defeat.

The Soviet people, who in 2 days, almost simultaneously with the people of Spain, are to elect deputies to the USSR Supreme Soviet, hope in all sincerity and good faith that the young Spanish democracy continues to develop in the name of the supreme interests of the country and its peoples.

Opposition to Fascism

LD021738 Moscow TASS in English 1634 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--TASS political commentator Anatoliy Krasikov writes:

The Spanish people has again confirmed its resolve to press for the final overcoming of the leftovers of fascism and to forge ahead along the road of freedom and democracy. Such is the first conclusion that should be drawn from an analysis of the results of the March 1st general elections to parliament.

Indeed, the greatest success at the polls went to the three parties that clearly and unambiguously declared against Francoism, for the implementation of the Constitution that was approved by the Spanish people at the December 1978 referendum and draws a line under the grave past.

As it was predicted on the eve of polling by informed political observers, not a single party secured an absolute majority in parliament. At the same time, the ruling Democratic Center Union remained the first party of the country and even somewhat improved its positions.

This was facilitated, no doubt, by the fact that the party of Adolfo Suarez had demonstrated in practice its readiness to honour its undertaking to assist the dismantling of the fascist dictatorshop and the development of a new Spain.

As before, the Spanish Socialist Workers Party firmly holds the position of the country's second most influential party and, undoubtedly, will continue playing an important role in the political life of the Spanish state.

The Communist Party of Spain improved its representation in parliament and retained its third place by number of seats. The party's success is the more remarkable that throughout the election campaign precisely the communists were the target of the vicious attacks by conservative forces that long to this or that extent for the former system.

Meriting attention is the success of a whole number of local parties and groupings of the land of the Basques.

The rightwing Popular Alliance Party suffered a defeat and lost many seats in parliament although on the eve of the elections it had formed a bloc with organizations professing similar views.

Those who to this day openly preach Francoism managed to secure only one seat in parliament.

On the whole, the elections did not introduce any substantial changes in the alignment of political forces. They demonstrated a certain stability in the sentiments of Spaniards who only recently freed themselves of the heavy burden of the past.

The parliamentary elections are now a part of history and the question on the agenda of the day is the creation of new, elected bodies of local administration. For the first time after forty years of Francoist dictatorship, municipal elections will be held throughout Spain early in April.

LA MALFA EFFORTS TO FORM ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FACE DIFFICULTIES

LD020901 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 79 p 1 LD

[Correspondent G. Zafesov report: "Consultations Continue"]

[Text] Rome, 25 February--Ugo La Malfa, Republican Party chairman, is conducting consultations here with representatives of the political parties on the formation of a new government, a task entrusted to him by the Italian president.

He immediately encountered serious difficulties because the Christian Democratic Party leadership continues to object to communist participation in the government. Let us recall that it was precisely this position that led to the failure of one Christian Democratic Party leader, G. Andreotti, to form a new cabinet. E. Berlinguer, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party, stated after his meeting with La Malfa that the Italian Communist Party is prepared to cooperate "in establishing solidarity among democratic parties."

FINLAND'S SORSA MAKES STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

LD032036 Moscow TASS in English 1921 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Helsinki, March 3, TASS--Nothing can justify China's aggression against Vietnam, said Finland's Prime Minister, Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Finland Kalevi Sorsa. In a statement on the international situation published by the Finnish press, Kalevi Sorsa assessed China's attack on the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as an "aggressive act contradicting the most fundamental principles of international law." It is necessary to demand that China immediately withdraw its troops from the territory of Vietnam, he said. China's actions deserve particular condemnation for the reason that China as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council bears special responsibility for preservation of world peace, said the Finnish prime minister. Peoples of Indochina that suffered from constant wars over many decades deserve to get at last an opportunity to build their prosperity in accordance with their own will, without outside interference in their affairs, the statement says.'

Kalevi Sorsa emphasized the significance of detente and disarmament and said that all efforts must be exerted to achieve them. He said the conclusion of the SALT-II aggreement would have huge moral effect on the striving to consolidate international security. It would also speed up other negotiations. Conclusion of an agreement on complete banning of all nuclear weapon tests must not be delayed, he noted. In the opinion of Kalevi Sorsa, European states "should agree at the talks in Vienna on substantial reductions of armed forces and armaments to be made already in near future."

WESTERN STATES MEET IN PARIS ON OIL SUPPLY PROBLEMS

LD022310 Moscow TASS in English 2015 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Paris, March 2, TASS--The leadership of the International Energy Agency, set up in the framework of the economic cooperation and development organisation for coordinating the fuel and energy policy of leading Western capitalist states, ended a two-day conference here. The IEA recommended a five percent reduction of oil consumption. It was also decided to coordinate the West's policy in regard to OPEC countries and prepare for the possible implementation of an "emergency plan" of redistributing oil reserves, previously drawn up at the IEA under the U.S. aegis. The press points out that conference participants were clearly concerned over the Iranian Government's decision to revise its oil policy with the aim of eliminating the domination of the international oil consortium, which made tremendous profits on Iranian oil exports.

CONTINUING COMMENT, REPORTAGE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAN

U.S. 'Driven' From Spy Station

LD021318 Moscow World Service in English 0400 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The United States has been driven from its last anti-Soviet spy station in northern Iran. The personnel of the station at Kabkan wa. flown to Tehran. U.S. officials in Washington indicated the Americans before leaving blew up the highly secret equipment. The base near the Soviet border was the more important of two secret United States facilities in northern Iran spying against the Soviet Union. According to ASSOCIATED PRESS, there are other systems of this type outside Iran.

Calls for 'Mass Purge' of Army

LD021435 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[Excerpts] Paris, 28 February--Analyzing the situation in the Iranian Armed Forces, an AFP correspondent reports from Tehran that "the former royal Iranian Army, which joined the revolution not long before its victory, is the subject of increasing criticism." Young officers, the report notes, are calling for a mass purge in the army.

"Although the new authorities have stressed that recent appointments to command posts are not final and although more than 250 generals have been discharged, eight generals shot and dozens of senior officers arrested, certain political groups continue to express dissatisfaction."

Iran Needs Unity, Cohesion

LD051005 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 79 p 5 LD

[Yuriy Glukhov's "Commentator's Column": "The First Steps"]

[Text] As officially announced a few days ago, a nationwide referendum on the question of the country's state setup will be held in Iran in March. After this a constituent assembly will be elected. After it has elaborated a new constitution, parliamentary elections will be held.

In essence the Iranian people have already made their choice in favor of the new power. They have demonstrated their desire to eliminate once and for all the rotten monarchy which turned Iran into the domain of foreign monopolies and the tool of imperialist policy in the Middle East. The forthcoming referendum is one of the most important measures in establishing and strengthening the revolutionary regime.

Other measures are also being implemented. Central organs of power are being created. A purge of the army and state apparatus is being conducted. Economic activity in the country is being reestablished.

The new power in Iran has already received broad international support. The Soviet Union was one of the first to announce its recognition of Iran's Provisional Government and to express its readiness to support and develop relations between our countries on the basis of the principles of equality, good-neighborliness and respect for national sovereignity and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

And so in the internal and international aspects a process of stabilization of Iran's revolutionary regime and consolidation and deepening of the positive changes which the Iranian people achieved in a difficult and bloody struggle has been observed. However this outcome of events obviously does not suit imperialist strategists. [paragraph continues]

Appeals to use force in the Persian Gulf region for the defense of American interests are constantly to be heard. Simultaneously the myth of the "Soviet threat" to Iran is being blown up. Actions and plots by Iranian reaction within the country are being inspired in every way.

Under these complex conditions the Iranian revolution is taking its first steps. This is why the Iranian revolutionary leaders' appeal for vigilance and readiness to rebuff the intrigues of imperialist reaction is topical. The unity and cohesion of all political forces in Iran fighting for the triumph of the revolution, against imperialist bondage and for the implementation of the people's aspirations can be the answer to imperialism's blackmail and threats.

Generals, SAVAK Officials Executed

LD050956 Moscow TASS in English 0943 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 5, TASS--Another four generals of the former shah's army and three top officials of the overthrown monarchic regime were executed by a firing squad this morning by a sentence passed by Islamic Revolutionary Tribunal. As is pointed out in the report of the Iranian news agency PARS, they all had been found guilty of organising bloody reprisals against their own people and of torturing political prisoners. Among the executed were SAVAK chief torturer Jehangir Raroq Qho was personally responsible for torturing and humiliating Iranian patriots, as well as Colonel Mansur Zamani, former chief warden of Qasr prison, where many prisoners of the shah regime had been tortured to death.

Oil Exports Resumed

LD091000 Moscow TASS in English 0932 GMT 5 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 5, TASS--Iran resumed today the export of oil after a 2.5 months' interval. Deliveries of this raw material were stopped in connection with the strike of Iranian oil workers, who took part in the struggle to overthrow the shah regime. Resumption of petroleum export was timed by the country's leaders for the 12th anniversary of the death of the fighter for Iran's national independence, Former Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddeq, who nationalised the petroleum industry. Representatives of Bazargan's revolutionary government stressed in their statements that Iran renounced the mediation of the consortium of Western monopolies and would supply oil directly to the consumers, that the natural wealth of the country would be used to the benefit of the Iranian people. It has been announced in Tehran also that Iranian oil will no longer be sold to the racialist regime of the Republic of South Africa.

Relations With RSA Severed

LD041812 Moscow TASS in English 1755 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 4, TASS--The Provisional Government of Iran passed a decision on severing diplomatic relations with the Republic of South Africa. According to a Voice of the Iranian Revolution Radio broadcast, the Iranian foreign minister gave notice to the RSA consul general that Iran has no intention to maintain any political, trade or other relations with the RSA.

Length of Military Service Reduced

LD041915 Moscow TASS in English 1702 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 4, TASS--The Islamic Revolutionary Council passed a decision to reduce the duration of army service from two to one year in Iran. At the same time it was decided that Iranian women will not be enlisted in the army, as they were under the shah, at all.

In the view of local commentators, these innovations are connected with Iran's rejection of the role of an imperialist policeman in the Persian Gulf area.

Moscow Persian on 1921 Treaty

TA022156 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 27 Feb 79 TA

[Text] Dear listeners, 57 years have passed since the signing of the goodneighborly relations treaty between the Soviet Union and Iran. This was the first equal rights treaty that Iran signed with a big power based on Leninist principles of noninterference in affairs of others, equal rights, respect for territorial sovereignty and reciprocal beneficial cooperation. The 1921 treaty corroborates the lofty and humane principles of Lenin's foreign policy declared immediately after the October Revolution and the establishment of the Soviet Government in our country.

These principles, approved 1 month after the victory of the Great October Revolution, were published in a message by the Soviet Government to all Muslims in the Soviet Union and the Orient. This message addressed to the Muslims said: Throw away the yoke of bondage of the era of usurpation of your country. Do not let them plunder the riches of your beloved birthplaces any more. You must be masters of your own countries, and you must live exactly as you wish. You have the right to do this.

The Soviet Union has always supported the Iranian people in their struggle against the common enemy--imperialism. For example, in the beginning of the thirties our country acted against the authority of the British and American imperialists who wanted to bring Iran under their servitude, and put at your country's disposal the assets and property that belonged to Russian capitalists in Iran; and it was the same at the end of the thirties when, with the support of the Soviet Union, the capitulationist regime in Iran was abolished. Our dear listeners probably know that the Soviet Union also later supported the Iranian people in their struggle to nationalize their oil.

The people and Government of the Soviet Union welcomed with complete satisfaction the victory of the antimonarchy and anti-imperialist revolution of Iran. Leonid Brezhnev, secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, in his reply to a PRAVDA reporter said he seriously warned about interference in the internal affairs of Iran and stated that Iranian internal problems must be solved by the people of the country themselves. The Soviet press and radio clearly condemn the interference of American imperialism and Israeli Zionism in Iranian affairs.

The Soviet Union was among the first countries in the world to recognize the Provisional Government of Iran. The remarks by Ayatollah Khomeyni that Iran will follow an independent and peaceful foreign policy and will expand its international, economic, and cultural relations were received positively in our country. The Soviet Union's readiness to expand such a relationship based on equal rights that prevent any interference in the internal affairs of Iran was conveyed to Mehdi Bazargan, head of the Iranian Provisional Government, in a telegram from Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

As we know, the decayed royal regime and the governing reactionary Iranian military stratum, for the sake of pleasing American imperialism and with its effective support, had transformed Iran into an American base for confronting the liberation movements in this region and into a threat to the Soviet Union.

For this reason the people of the Soviet Union have received with pleasure the statement by General Qarani, chief of staff of the National Army of Iran, which was published in the Soviet press. He stated that after the establishment of the new regime in Iran surveillance of the Soviet Union by electronic devices for reconnaissance purposes will be ended. Accordingly, the victory of the revolution in Iran creates many possibilities for fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iran on the basis of equality, noninterference in each other's internal affairs and mutual benefits. This accords with the policy of two neighboring countries.

Ayatollah Taleghani recently said that the Soviet Union acts against international imperialism. He said that relations between Iran and the Soviet Union should be based on goodneighborly relations and without misunderstanding. As you are aware, the Soviet Union has consistently followed Lenin's policy of goodneighborly relations and cooperation with Iran. The Soviet Union-Iran treaty signed in 1921, the anniversary of which is now occurring, is a clear example of this policy.

Carter Remarks on Military Ties

TA050845 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Text] In a press conference in Washington President Carter said that the U.S. is doing all it can to protect its interests in Iran. Carter expressed the hope that the U.S. will renew its military cooperation with Iran, which was cut after the fall of the shah's regime.

Kurdish Appointments in Kurdistan

TA050840 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Text] 'ETELA'AT reports it has been agreed that Kurds will be appointed to government and military posts in Kurdistan, and that Kurdish and Persian will be taught at the same level in the province's schools.

Tudeh Party Statement

TA050850 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 1 March 79 TA

[Text] The Iranian Tudeh Party, which was outlawed by the shah's regime, issued a statement in Tehran stressing that freedom of action of this party is an integral part of democracy and without it solving the problems of Iran's society is not possible.

Status of Islam in USSR

TA050925 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Excerpts] In answer to a listener's question on whether there are followers of the Islamic religion in the Soviet Union the announcer said that Islam has the second largest following in the Soviet Union after the Christian Orthodox religion. Muslims live mainly in Kazakhstan and (Kafkaz). The announcer also says that there are mosques in heavily populated Muslim areas and also one in Moscow. The Muslims publish their own publications including the Koran. There is a theological academy and school in Bokhara and Tashkent for the purpose of educating Islamic theologians.

The Soviet Constitution stipulates that citizens have the right to choose any religion or not to follow any religion. In the Soviet Union religion and government are separate, as are school and religion. Religion is not taught in Soviet schools, but parents are free to acquaint their children with any religion. Government officials do not interfere in the work of purely religious organizations.

Islamic institutions in the Soviet Union are associated within themselves and also with Muslims of other countries. Forty Islamic delegations visited the Soviet Union last year.

In the Soviet Union religion does not play any part in employment or education. Religious minorities must observe the laws of the Soviet Union.

Life Returning to Normal

LD021223 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 79 p 5 LD

[Correspondent A. Filippov report under the general heading: "Along the Path of Normalization"]

[Text] Tehran, 26 February--Despite the intrigues of counterrevolutionary elements attempting to commit acts of sabotage in enterprises and state institutions and bring about a split in the national patriotic organizations, the process of normalizing economic and political life is strengthening and developing. Tehran Radio, reporting today on the latest cabinet measures, stresses that life in the country is returning to its normal pattern. Extraction in the oilfields and production of petroleum products are growing daily. It has been announced that within the next 2 weeks the export of Iranian oil abroad will begin, with the purpose of acquiring the hard currency necessary for the needs of the disrupted national economy. At the same time it is stressed that oil will not be supplied to Israel, with which all links have been severed, or to the South African racists.

This is the third day that the country's international airports have been functioning normally, accepting aircraft from various points of the globe. Aeroflot flights have resumed. The national airline Iran Air has started international flights. The Central Bank of Iran has started conducting international monetary transactions. Transit rail and road haulage has been opened across the country's territory. It is noted that almost 70 percent of the production capacity of Iranian enterprises has been restored.

As KAYHAN and the Tehran JOURNAL note, the situation in Iran is on the whole calm.

The local press tells in detail of the continuing purge of the state and the military and police apparatuses.

Meetings held recently in the country have adopted decisions in support of the Provisional Government's anti-imperialist steps.

Reports on Iranian Situation

LD022306 Moscow TASS in English 2032 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 2, TASS--Addressing a mass meeting in Qom, Ayatollah Khomeyni strongly criticized the external and domestic policy of the shah regime. He stressed that the scourges of the contemporary Iranian society were caused by the fact that the country adhered for many long years to the Western model of development.

Khomeyni urged the people to take an active part in the forthcoming referendum on the [word indistinct] of Iran's state structure and to vote for the proclamation of an Islamic republic. Describing the future form of administration, he noted that the country's present leadership denounced "democracy" in its Western form.

He reaffirmed that all the property of the Pahlavi dynasty and its henchmen would be confiscated and used in the interests of the poorest sections of the population.

Tehran Radio announced the closing down of the American reconnaissance base near the town of Kabkan next to the Iranian-Soviet border. The Americans, manning [few words indistinct] have left Iran.

Washington, March 2, TASS--Representative of the Iranian Provisional Government in the United States Shahriar Rouhani said at a press conference here that Iran would no longer allow any foreign state to conduct reconnaissance activities from Iranian territory.

He said that the shah of Iran and members of his family transferred abroad more than 50,000 million dollars actually stolen from the Iranian people. In the United States alone the total sum of their bank investments amounts to 15-23 thousand million dollars. All these tremendous [few words indistinct] Rouhani stressed, belong to the Iranian people, and no one else has the right to dispose of them.

Shahriar Rouhani said also that under the shah the Iranian Embassy in Washington practiced broadly the bribing of congressmen and influential representatives of the U.S. press, thereby obtaining their support of the Iranian monarchy.

Paris, March 2, TASS--Referring to "authoritative Pentagon sources," the FRANCE PRESSE AGENCY reports from Washington that a squadron of U.S. warships of the 6th Fleet is being transferred from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean. Yesterday this squadron, consisting of destroyers "Richard L. Page," "Donald Beary" and "Davis," sailed through the Suez Canal.

It is common knowledge that during the aggravation of the internal political crisis in Iran the United States increased substantially its naval presence in the Persian Gulf area. The dispatch to areas in direct proximity to Iran of new U.S. warships shows that Washington has not given up the policy of demonstration of strength in this region and endeavours to keep Iran within the sphere of its influence.

Current Situation

ID031901 Moscow TASS in English 1835 GMT 3 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Tehran, March 3, TASS--The problem of a nationwide referendum that must determine the future state structure of Iran is being widely discussed by the Iranian public these days. Speaking at a meeting in one of higher educational establishments of Tehran, the leader of the Democratic Union of the Iranian People, M. Behazin, declared that the people should be given the opportunity of choosing between a federal democratic, or Islamic system of the future government. He declared for an early publishing of the draft new constitution of the Islamic republic so that before the referendum the Iranian people could be informed of the plans of the country's leadership. Influential Tehran leader Ayatollah Taleqani also declared that the people should be acquainted before the referendum with the main provisions of the Islamic constitution.

During a talk with Egyptian Ambassador in Tehran Safwat, Foreign Minister in the Provisional Government of Iran Karim Sanjabi made a warning to the Egyptian leadership that if Egypt gives political asylum to the shah of Iran, this will lead to a serious worsening of the relations between the two countries.

He stressed that President as-Sadat's motivations of "personal friendship" with the shah will not be accepted by the Iranian Government. The Voice of the Iranian Revolution radio station announced that Karim Sanjabi brought to the notice of all states that the granting of political asylum to the shah will lead to serious complications between Iran and the country that will decide to take such a step. As is known, the United States remains the only country that has officially offered political asylum to the shah.

Kuwait, March 3, TASS--In an interview to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Army Cohammad Gharani said that Iran no longer plays the role of the United States' policeman in the Persian Gulf, the way it did during the shah's regime, and is now in confrontation with Israel. The role of the policeman was dropped forever, he said.

Washington, March 3, TASS--The scandal in connection with bribes that were given by former Ambassador of the Iranian shah's regime Zahedi to prominent American political leaders and journalists is spreading in the United States.

According to the Washington correspondent of the newspaper Dallas NEWS, Zahedi gave bribes to at least 20 senators and to several tens of members of the House of Representatives and journalists. The bribing was made in the form of sums of money and expensive gifts, for instance, Persian carpets costing about 20 thousand dollars.

Representative of the Provisional Government of Iran in the USA S. Ruhani said in an interview with the New York TIMES that Zahedi who is now in Switzerland took along with him the documents registering payments to American political leaders. But there remain in the Iranian Embassy the banking accounts confirming the payment of bribes.

According to the press, U.S. Deputy Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti ordered a preliminary investigation of reports about bribing of congressmen by the former Iranian ambassador in the United States.

SOUTH, NORTH YEMEN AGREE TO HONOR CEASE-FIRE

LD031644 Moscow TASS in English 1605 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

["On the Situation in the South of Arabia"--TASS headline]

[Text] Aden, March 3, TASS--Chairman of the Presidential Council of the Supreme People's Council of the Yemen People's Democratic Republic 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il has today ordered the armed forces of Democratic Yemen to observe strictly the ceasefire agreement, which came into force at eight o'clock in the morning of the local time. The South Yemen side honours the ceasefire agreement, which, he said, is a reflection of our sincere wish to end bloodshed, and accords with our obligations to the fraternal Arab countries.

Baghdad, March 3, TASS--According to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA), President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic has also ordered the troops to "observe the ceasefire agreement reached with the mixed Arab committee of representatives of a number of Arab countries." "Unwilling to shed the blood of sons of the Yemen people and having positively responded to efforts by representatives of Syria, Iraq and Jordan, he said we order that the ceasefire agreement be honored." A.A. Salih reported on cessation of radio propaganda against the Yemen People's Democratic Republic, which was also stipulated at the talks with the mixed Arab committee.

CYPRUS DISSATISFIED WITH U.S. OFFICIALS, POSITION

LD042032 Moscow TASS in English 2008 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Nicosia, March 4, TASS -The Government of Cyprus told the U.S. ambassador in Nicosia of its profound dissatisfaction over the position of U.S. State Department officials on the Cyrpus question. This is a position, stated the Foreign Minister of Cyprus N. Rolandhis, whereby the Government of Cyprus is presented as the intransigent side in the Cyprus question. In this connection the paper ELEVTHERI KIPROS described a U.S. State Department councellor M. Nimetz as an "undersirable mediator," who is trying to settle the Cyprus problem in the American manner.

CYPRIOT PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADER SCORES PRC ATTACK ON SRV

LD261304 Moscow TASS in English 1135 GMT 26 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Nicosia, February 26, TASS--General Secretary of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL) Ezekias Papaioannou has criticised the ruling circles of the United States and NATO, which encouraged the Beijing clique for an armed intervention against Vietnam. It is not accidental that China's perfidious aggression in Vietnam began several days after Deng Xiaoping's visit to the United States, he said speaking at a party conference in Nicosia. There is no doubt that the U.S. administration and NATO bear responsibility for China's actions in Vietnam. Pointing to the danger and shortsightedness of such a policy, Ezekias Papaioannou has said that Socialist Vietnam is not alone, it has true and reliable friends and allies. The toiling people of Cyprus expresses full support for the heroic Vietnamese people.

MEETING ON MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEMS TO INVITE PLO DELEGATION

LD281726 Moscow TASS in English 1602 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Valetta, February 28, TASS--At the current conference of the experts on economic, scientific and cultural cooperation in the Mediterranean area, the Soviet delegation supported Syria's proposal to invite a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation to the conference. The proposal was supported by a number of states, among them Turkey, Cyprus, as well as Yugoslavia, Romania and other socialist countries.

COMMUNIQUE ON GREEK PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SYRIA REPORTED

LD022100 Moscow TASS in English 1944 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 2, TASS--A joint Syrian-Greek communique on the results of the visit paid to the Syrian Arab Republic by the Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Karamanlis, undertaken at the invitation of the Syrian Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, has been published here. Having reviewed the situation in the Middle East, the communique says, Syria and Greece again declare that a comprehensive settlement is possible only with the participation of all the sides concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, on the basis of the resolutions of the United Nations Organization. The sides stressed that a just peace in the Middle East could not be established without a withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of the lawful national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination and creation of an independent state. The joint communique notes that the Cyprus problem should be settled within the frameworks of the United Nations decisions which are aimed at safeguarding the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country.

DISSOLUTION OF RHODESIAN PARLIAMENT REPORTED

LD021218 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Smith, the head of the Rhodesian racists, has signed a document dissolving Parliament. Thus, another act in the political spectacle aimed at creating the appearance of a transition to African majority rule in the country has been played out in Salisbury. The Parliament dissolved by Smith, which consisted mainly of European settlers, had time to do everything necessary for the racist rulers. The constitution that it adopted, in accordance with which it is planned to hold elections to a new Parliament on 20 April, fully preserves the white population's control over the political and economic life of the country. The army, police and state apparatus will be in its hands, and the white settlers will have almost one-third of the seats in the new Parliament as well as the right to veto its decisions. Political observers point out that the process of an internal settlement is being pursued by Smith with the approval of the Western powers, who, after the so-called elections on a legal basis, will lift the economic sanctions against the racist regime introduced by the United Nations.

SWAPO'S NUJOMA EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH ETHIOPIA VISIT

LD041259 Moscow TASS in English 1140 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 4, TASS--Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), expressed satisfaction with the results of his working visit to Ethiopia. Leaving Addis Ababa, he said that in the course of the talks with Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia, the sides reaffirmed their determination to step up the struggle against the forces of imperialism and colonialism in Africa. The strengthening of friendship between the Ethiopian and Namibian peoples, S. Nujoma pointed out, will contribute to the success of the liberation movement in Namibia. The SWAPO president expressed gratitude to the Ethiopian leaders for their readiness to give all-round support to SWAPO heading the struggle of the Namibian people for independence.

S. AFRICAN PAPERS CITED ON PRC TIES WITH APARTHEID REGIME

LD021504 Moscow TASS in English 1350 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Maputo, March 2, TASS--The South African newspaper STAR reports that the cost of the so-called "indirect" exports of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of South Africa amounted to 4,800,000 rands in 1978. Trying to hide from the public its links with the criminal apartheid regime, Beijing sends its commodities to Hong Kong and from there they come to the Republic of South Africa. One of the main items on its export list are cotton fabrics used to make uniforms for racist punitive troops.

Despite the official condemnation of apartheid policies, writes another South African newspaper FINANCIAL MAIL, broad trade links have been established between China and the Republic of South Africa. The People's Republic of China purchases in the Republic of South Africa cotton, wool, copper, diamonds, gold, tin and other raw materials. More and more Chinese commodities are put on sale at South African shops. But concrete data on this trade are carefully concealed to offset criticism from those developing states which still continue to maintain relations with China. The expansion of trade with Pretoria, which actually testifies to support for the racist regime brackets Beijing with Western powers in their attempts to perpetuate colonialism and racism in the south of Africa.

TASS REPORTS FRONTLINE CONFERENCE IN LUANDA

LD041744 Moscow TASS in English 1528 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Luanda, March 4, TASS--The heads of five frontline states of the African Continent--Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique and Tanzania, are holding another conference here. Its purpose is to work out a single strategy in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and apartheid for the complete liberation of the peoples of South Africa from the racist and colonial system. Its participants are discussing questions pertaining to stepping up the struggle against the white-minority racist regimes in Salisbury and Pretoria, to support for the national-liberation movements of Zimbabwe, Namibia and the RSA--the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, the South-West Africa People's Organisation and the African National Congress of South Africa, and also to actions to repel the unending armed provocations by the racist military against sovereign African states.

The racists' criminal acts of aggression against Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique, the opening session of the conference was told by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, merely strengthen the resolve of the frontline states to go on giving all-out support to the Zimbabwe and Namibian freedom fighters, who are waging courageous struggle for their peoples' freedom and independende.

In the last eight days the Rhodesian regime perpetrated bandit raids on Zambia, Mozambique and Angola. During savage bombings of Zimbabwe refugee camps situated in the territories of these countries, hundreds of innocent people were killed and wounded.

MPLA STATEMENT ON RHODESIAN, PRC AGGRESSION CITED

LD281408 Moscow TASS in English 1323 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Luanda, February 28, TASS--Despite the aggressive scheming of the racists, the MPLA-Workers' Party and the Angolan people will continue to give an all-round support and assistance to the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and the Republic of South Africa. This is announced in a statement, issued here today by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers' Party, on the Rhodesian air raid against the Zimbabwe refugee camp in the Angolan territory.

The criminal bombing, the statement indicates, is one of the unsuccessful attempts of the racists to halt the advance of the liberation movement in the south of Africa which lately scored important victories. More than 160 dead and 530 wounded are, according to estimates of the Politbureau of the MPLA-Workers' Party CC, the consequences of this criminal action of the Rhodesian racists.

At present, the Politbureau emphasises, imperialism and its henchmen are trying in every possible way to expand troubled areas, to destabilise the situation in the countries which are supporting the liberation struggle of the downtrodden peoples. Within this context, the statement stresses, the Politbureau of the MPLA-Workers' Party CC resolutely condemns the aggression of Beijing, the most zealous ally of imperialism, against the heroical Vietnamese people. At the same time it voices concern over the imperialist designs in the Middle East.

No provocations and aggressive actions of imperialism and its racist placemen in Africa can break the resolve of the Angolan people to help all the forces fighting for the genuine liberation of the south of Africa from the yoke of imperialism, colonialism and racism, the statement concludes.

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN'S TARAKI GREETS BREZHNEV ON TREATY ANNIVERSARY

LD031204 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Nur Mohammad Taraki, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, has sent a message to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Taraki expressed sincere congratulations and very best wishes on the 58th anniversary of the signing of the 1921 Soviet-Afghan Treaty of Friendship. This treaty, the message says, founded on the principles of friendship, peace, and neighborliness, has been reaffirmed in subsequent treaties which constitute a principled foundation for sincere and worthy relations between friendly neighboring states.

AFGHAN AMBASSADOR VISITS DUSHANBE 23-24 FEBRUARY

LD021141 Dushanbe KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA in Russian 24 Feb 79 p 1 LD

[TADZHIKTA report: "Afghan Ambassador to USSR Stays in Tadzhikistan"]

[Text] Raz Mohammad Paktin, Afghan ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the USSR, arrived in Dushanbe on 23 February. He was met at the airport by R.D. Dadaboyev, chairman of the Tadzhik branch of the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Society and Tadzhik SSR minister of education, and officials of the Tadzhik SSR Foreign Ministry.

The eminent guest called on R.D. Dadaboyev, Tadznik minister of education, and met with Afghan students studying in Dushanbe VUZes. Raz Mohammad Paktin leaves Dushanbe on 24 February.

INDIAN FINANCE MINISTER LAUDS RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD041113 Moscow TASS in English 1049 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Delhi, March 4, TASS--A message of Indian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Charangh Singh was issued here in connection with the forthcoming visit to India of Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Kosygin. The peoples of India and the Soviet Union, says the message, are linked with old bonds of friendship which do not depend on the political systems in those countries. Since the very first days of proclamation of independence, the Indian people has implemented jointly with the USSR projects for economic development, for example, in the metallurgical industry. India and the Soviet Union have so much in common that friendship between our peoples will be eternal for the benefit of universal peace and flourishing. On the eve of A.N. Kosygin's visit to India, Ch. Singh stressed, I avail myself of this opportunity and extend friendly greetings and best wishes to the government and people of the Soviet Union.

INDIAN PRESS CONCERNED OVER U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN

LD041329 Moscow TASS in English 1130 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Delhi, March 4, TASS--The Indian press is showing growing concern in connection with the buildup of U.S. military might in the Indian Ocean.

In spite of the protests of the coastal states, the expansion of the U.S. military base on Diego Garcia is continuing, the PATRIOT stresses. India is alarmed over the Pentagon's plans to deploy antisubmarine long-range aircraft on that base, the newspaper points out.

Three ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet--two patrol vessels and a destroyer--passed from the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal on their way to the Indian Ocean, writes the newspaper TIMES OF INDIA. In the course of recent months, the newspaper points out, U.S. ships have been permanently in the Indian Ocean. The U.S. Defence Department is planning large-scale naval operations in that area.

Indian public resolutely comes out against a broadening of U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean, India's mass information media points out.

SERGEYEV NOTES BROAD DIFFERENCES AT RECENT U.S.-INDIAN TALKS

LD041837 Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Boris Sergeyev commentary]

[Text] At the talks in Delhi, the Indian leaders and the United States assistant secretary of state, Warren Christopher, are reported to have differed in their appraisals of the mounting military conflict between China and Vietnam and in how it should be settled. The Indian press says, moreover, that Mr Christopher did not confine himself to hearing India's view on Beijing's actions or to stating Washington's view. He tried to change the thinking in Delhi. He appeared to have instructions from the State Department to do so. The news agency, (FRANCE-ASIA) INTERNATIONAL, says that India's firm censure of China's aggression stunned Washington. What has also displeased the American Government is that public and political groups in India to a large extent view the aggression as the first joint Sino-American action in Southeast Asia.

It is well understood in India that the action is directed not only against Vietnam. Many news analysts believe Beijing has struck a most serious blow at the nonalined movement. In fact, the most serious since China attacked India in 1962. But the high-ranking American official not only failed to show any understanding of India's justified fears of the consequences of the Chinese aggression in Vietnam, he tried to make India change its position. For this he used the issue of supplies of enriched uranium for the atomic power plant at Tarapur.

Meanwhile, as the ASSOCIATED PRESS reports, the talks in Delhi has been that though the United States is holding up the uranium deliveries for Tarapur, it was very quick to agree to sell an atomic reactor to China and, what is more, did not insist on the terms it is trying to impose on India. Those close to the Indian Foreign Ministry point out that China, unlike India, holds regular tests of nuclear weapons and is increasing production of such weapons. The restrained reaction of both Indian and American officials to the Delhi talks is seen by Indian observers as a sign that the talks were a failure. The Indian press points out that the two sides held entirely different positions.

INDOCHINA

PRAVDA DENIES SECRET USSR-PRC-U.S. TALKS ON INDOCHINA

LD030424 Moscow TASS in English 0417 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

["Another Canard From Peking"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 3, TASS--PRAVDA carries a response under the title "Another Canard From Peking." Its text follows:

"In order to disorient public opinion some Western information media launched into orbit a report from Beijing (??), false from beginning to end, alleging the holding of 'secret negotiations between Chinese, American and Soviet representatives over the situation in Indochina.' The matter is so presented as if China 'decided to take a breathing spell at a moment when real decisions depend on the results to be achieved by means of secret diplomacy.'

"The Soviet Union does not carry on any 'secret diplomacy.' That is the first thing. Secondly, 'real decisions' are not to be found by deals behind the scenes. An immediate end to the criminal aggression and an unconditonal withdrawal of Chinese troops from the land of Vietnam--this is what the peoples are demanding."

CONTINUED REPORTAGE ON PRC AGGRESSION AGAINST VIETNAM

TASS 2 Mar Situation Report

LD021428 Moscow TASS in English 1311 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] Hanoi, March 2, TASS--Endeavouring to carry out their piratic hegemonistic designs, the ruling quarters of Beijing are escalating the aggressive war against Vietnam. The aggressors are concentrating large infantry, armour and artillery units in the northern provinces of Vietnam for the purpose of occupying vast territories of Vietnam.

The VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY reports that the Chinese aggressors continue to concentrate large forces in the Lang Son direction. Heavy fighting is going on there. In the course of the hostilities the enemy is suffering large casualties and losses in war ma'riel. In only two days the Vietnamese soldiers put out of action 2,700 enemy soldiers and knocked out eight tanks.

The Armed Forces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam inflicted retaliatory blows at the enemy in Hoang Lien Son Province where the main fighting is going on in the area of Kan Duong and Highway 7. Hundreds of enemy soldiers have been killed in fighting in Cao Bang Province.

In the course of the Chinese aggression, as noted by the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY, the Vietnamese Armed Forces and People's Militiamen put out of action more than 27,000 enemy soldiers, damaged and destroyed 200 tanks and armoured personnel carriers. The Vietnamese troops captured large amounts of weapons and military supplies.

Correspondent Visits Cao Bang

LD021202 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0000 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Our Hanoi correspondent Leonid Krichevskiy visited Cao Bang Province. Here is his report: Cao Bang is a mountainous Vietnamese province bodering on China. The Cao Bang area has been and remains one of the main goals of the Chinese aggressors. The greatest number of troops were flung into battle here when the invasion began. However, the Chinese Armed Forces have run into an exceptionally stubborn resistance in Cao Bang by the province's armed forces and detachments of the home guard.

The road to Cao Bang rises in loops up the slopes to the pass and then runs down into the valley to the settlements. Our trucks climbed the Cao Bang pass. It was dangerous to go further because that night the Chinese troops had taken a bridge approximately 10 km from the pass, and now a fierce battle is in progress there with the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

On the pass a small press conference took place with Lt Col (Le Khang), a representative of the armed forces of Cao Bang Province. He spoke in detail of the military situation on the Cao Bang front. The enemy would have liked to take our province quickly, but has not succeeded in doing this. Our armed forces blocked the road of the aggressor. All the same, the enemy has succeeded in advancing several dozen kilometers inside our province. The Chinese troops' aggressive actions, Lt Col (Le Khang) continued, has ignited the fire of hatred in the hearts of the inhabitants of our province and of all Vietnamese. The enemy is suffering heavy losses. In our province alone during the first few days of fighting some 10,000 soldiers of the Chinese Armed Forces were annihilated and 34 tanks, dozens of armored carriers and other military equipment was put out of action. Many Chinese servicemen have been taken prisoner.

The people and armed forces of Vietnam, Lt Col (Le Khang) says, are fully determined to continue the struggle against the aggressors. We always remember the shining behest of President Ho Chi Minh: Nothing is more precious than freedom and independence.

NHAN DAN Rejects PRC Talks Offer

LD031552 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Hanoi, March 3, TASS--NHAN DAN, the newspaper of the Communist Party of Vietnam CC, exposes in its editorial article today the fresh manoeuvre by the Beijing ruling circles, who allegedly expressed the "wish for the speediest holding of peace talks with Vietnam." The newspaper writes that Beijing and the imperialist forces backing it, come out with slanderous statements and false justifications, although the whole world understands very well that they are waging not a "border war" and resolving no "territorial disputes," but have unleashed a large-scale aggression of great-power hegemonism and expansionism against the SRV. Their disgusting face is that of warmongers.

By sending their troops into Vietnam, the Beijing reactionaries thought that they would be able to "teach Vietnam a lesson." But from the very first minute, they were themselves given a lesson, as a result of resolute counterattacks by the people and heroic Armed Forces of Vietnam. The Chinese people, which gravely suffered from numerous calamities will not stand idly by watching how the Beijing reactionary ruling circles are shedding its blood in the unjust aggressive war.

While stepping up the war against Vietnam and putting forward proposals on peace talks, the clique of the Beijing reactionaries is again using the familiar perfidious method of launching attacks, while at the same time spreading lies so as to direct condemnation toward the victim of aggression, to sow doubts among public, and use this as a pretext for a further escalation of war. Beijing's proposal on talks, NHAN DAN stresses, is no expression of goodwill towards peace, but only a subterfuge with the aim of escalating hostilities. Our people and our army must fight even more resolutely in the name of defending every inch of our homeland's sacred land.

Vice Minister Rebuts PRC Subterfuge

LD041412 Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

["Manoeuvres of the Beijing Aggressors Exposed"--TASS headline]

[Text] Hanoi, March 4, TASS--The speculation of China's ruling circles on the holding of the so-called "peace talks" between our two countries is not more than a cheap fraudulent subterfuge aimed at misleading world public, a press conference was told here by SRV Vice Foreign Minister Dinh Ngo Liem. What talks can they be, he said, when the Chinese troops are continuing a large-scale aggression against our country, when a number of districts and district centres have been captured and the blood of peaceful civilians of border provinces is being shed.

The proposals of the Chinese side, Dinh Ngo Liem went on to say, do not contain a single world about withdrawal from Vietnam's territory. Can an independent sovereign state sit down at the table of negotiations in conditions of continuing aggression? No. The stand of our people and government is clear: As the Chinese authorities have unleashed an aggressive war against Vietnam, they must end their aggression themselves and give up their aggressive plans forever. They must immediately and unconditionally withdraw their troops to the otherside of the border, which formed historically. [as received] And it is only after it, that Vietnam is ready to hold talks with China on the restoration of normal relations between the two countries in accordance with the legitimate wish of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples and other peoples of the world.

At present, Dinh Ngo Liem stressed, as we were informed by the Laotian comrades, China is massing troops on the border of Laos, thus threatening the freedom and independence of fraternal Laos. This constitutes a great danger to peace and security in Southeast Asia and all over the world. There is a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the SRV and the People's Democratic Republic of Laos, and we will honour our obligations under this treaty. The peoples of the world are exposing new schemes of the Chinese aggressors. We received with great satisfaction the statement by the Soviet Government of March 2. It is an important contribution to a further strengthening of the united front of the peoples of the world, which has already formed, in support and solidarity with the righteous cause of the Vietnamese people.

China's ruling circles are afraid of their people. They are trying to conceal their crimes. Now China intends to come out with an "olive branch of peace" in one hand and a submachine-gun in the other--familiar devices, which have already been repeatedly used by U.S. Presidents Johnson and Nixon. But the disgraceful lot of all these maneouvres is well-known. The Beijing warmongers will inevitably suffer utter defeat. On our side, Dinh Ngo Liem said in conclusion, are the Soviet Union, the fraternal socialist countries, communist and workers parties, the national liberation movement, all peoples of the world cherishing peace and justice. The Communist Party of Vietnam, the government and people of Vietnam are determined to do their national and international duty, to score a victory over expansionism and great-power hegemonism of the Chinese ruling clique.

Vietnamese Continue to Resist

LD031300 Moscow TASS in English 1247 GMT 3 Mar 79 LD

["Strikes at the Chinese Invaders"--TASS headline]

[Text] Hanoi, March 3, TASS--In spite of heavy losses in manpower and materiel, the Chinese interventionists are making desperate but unsuccessful efforts to advance deeper into Vietnam's territory.

The massing of Chinese troops is also continuing on the boundary between China, Vietnam and Laos. As the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY reports, fierce fighting is continuing in Lang Son Province, where the Chinese aggressors have sent a big infantry force supported by tanks and artillery. The fighting men and people's militia of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam checked the enemy advance there, putting out of action five enemy tanks and 1,100 soldiers.

An attempt by the Chinese troops to launch an offensive in the Loc Binh direction (southwest of Lang Son) was also frustrated. The enemy lost 1,370 soldiers in one day alone. Thus, the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY reports, more than 4,000 Chinese soldiers were destroyed in three days of fighting south of Dong Dang; nine tanks as well as 36 heavy artillery pieces and mortars of the aggressors were knocked out.

Hanoi, March 3, TASS--A correspondent of the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY reports from Dong Dang area:

The thunder of Chinese heavy artillery woke up the inhabitants of Dong Dang at dawn. Shells fell on the railway terminal, hospitals, schools and apartment houses. Soon the invaders appeared. "They got so brutalized that they killed everyone they met on their way. They did not spare either women, or children and old people." A powerful wave of sacred wrath against the invaders is rising all over Vietnam. Thousands of young people are joining the ranks of volunteers.

VCP Appeal for Resistance

LD041916 Moscow TASS in English 1855 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Hanoi, March 4, TASS--The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam today issued an appeal to the Vietnamese people, calling for expanding the war of resistance to the Chinese aggression in order to rout the enemy which is encroaching on the sacred land of the fatherland. Despite heavy losses, notes the appeal, the reactionary Beijing authorities continue to expand the war against Vietnam. Fierce battles continue. At the same time, hypocritically maneuvering, the aggressors are trying to cheat world public opinion in the hope to camouflage their dark designs and barbarous atrocities. However, the whole world has demonstrated its warm sympathy and support for the heroic Vietnamese people in its struggle against the Beijing aggressors.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam called on all compatriots and the country's soldiers to be prepared to rout the enemy under any conditions. The entire country, the appeal underlines, is a battlefield. The main task consists in expelling the aggressors from Vietnamese territory and reliably protecting its borders. Beijing's expansionism and great-power hegemonism, the appeal points out, are a danger not to the Vietnamese people alone, but also to the peace, independence, freedom and social progress of Southeast Asian countries and those of the whole world. The Vietnamese people clearly realises that, by waging resolute struggle for the independence and freedom of its motherland till complete victory, it is at the same time fighting for peace for all peoples. Voicing confidence in the victory over the Chinese aggressors and reactionaries, the Vietnamese Communist Party CC thanks all its friends in the world that have given timely powerful and vigorous support to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people against the Chinese aggression.

BREZHNEV ELECTION SPEECH ON DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

LD021738 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

["In the Name of the Happiness of Soviet People"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--Follows the full text of a speech made today by General Secretary of the CPSU CC, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev before the electorate of Moscow's Bauman Electoral District in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses.

Dear Comrades!

Dear Muscovites!

This is by no means the first time I am meeting with the electorate of the Bauman Electorate District. To be precise, this is our ninth electoral meeting. And every time I want first of all to heartily thank you, and all the people of the district, for the honour and trust accorded me in nominating my candidature for deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

I would like to express special appreciation to authorized representative Aleksandr Grigoryevich Demidov, and also to all the comrades who spoke here in support of my candidature. I am very grateful to the propagandists and authorized representatives who worked at the polling stations of our electoral district.

I regard your trust as trust in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, as trust in the political line adopted by the party at its 25th congress.

This line is directed at developing the economy and improving the life of the people, at perfecting socialist democracy and strengthening the fraternal friendship of all the nations and peoples of our motherland, at strengthening the defence might of the Soviet land and ensuring lasting peace and international security. This is the political line which, multiplied by the selfless labour of the Soviet people, underlines the successes of our society. This is the political line which determines also the content of all the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

I will hardly be wrong in saying that the discussion and adoption of the new Constitution of the USSR was the main event in the activities of the Supreme Soviet of the ninth convocation. Just as the new constitutions of the union and autonomous republics, it reflected the most characteristic, the most stable features of the statehood, of the entire system of social relationships of developed socialism.

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, the highest body of authority of the USSR has started the implementation of a big programme of the further renovation of the Soviet legislation. Along with this the USSR Supreme Soviet and its Presidium have intensified guidance of the soviets, and also control over the fulfilment of the laws. I am convinced that these directions will play an increasing part in the Supreme Soviet's activities. A good, well thought-out system of laws, plus their unswerving execution--this is the legality, this is the law and order without which a socialist way of life, socialist democracy are unthinkable.

The successes of socialist democratism are unquestionable. But it is also unquestionable that the potentials of Soviet power of the people are far from exhausted yet.

The Central Committee is giving prior attention to raising the activity of party organizations, of soviets of people's deputies, of the trade unions and the Young Communist League. The party approaches the elections with a broad programme for improving the forms and methods of their multifaceted activities.

This, in essence, is a programme for every, I repeat, every Soviet person to be able to feel involved in the affairs of state, to be confident that his or her opinion, his or her voice will be heard and heeded when big and small decisions are being made.

This is why it is necessary to carry on, to make still more active and resolute the uncompromising struggle against violations of legality, suppression of criticism, procrastination, formalism and red tape. More publicity. More attention to the needs and opinions of people. More immediate, concerned intercourse with the masses. This is how the party poses the question. Such must be the style of work of all the soviets of people's deputies--from the Supreme Soviet to the village and settlement soviets.

Now about our economy. Its scale is now so great that one has to operate with truly astronomical figures. The value of fixed production assets has reached one trillion rubles. The national income in the period from elections to elections came to nearly two trillion, or 400 billion rubles more than during a similar previous period. In a word, our economy, just as our science and culture, has attained new, higher levels. This is the main result of the past period.

And, as your deputy, I cannot but note in this connection the weighty contribution to our country's economic and cultural development made in these years by the people of the Bauman District. Together with the large detachment of the capital's working people, they are marching in the first ranks of participants in socialist emulation, in the struggle for communist labour.

Huge areas of our motherland are changing their aspect. Continuing is the extensive development of Western Siberia, which has already become the country's main fuel and energy base. The construction of the Baykal-Amur Railway Line was started, it would seem, only recently, but today a third of this mainline is already opened for service traffic.

The development of the hungry steppe in Uzbekistan has been completed. Nearing conclusion is the development of the 'rice virgin land'--the famous floodlands in the lower reaches of the Kuban River. Our Non-Black Earth Zone has also acquired a new look in many ways. A zone of guaranteed grain production is being created in the Volga valley.

Economic progress, as was stressed once again at the July 1978 Plenum of the CPSU CC, is inconceivable without a modern, highly productive agriculture.

By developing this branch, we resolved a big range of agrarian problems. The output of agricultural produce per capita population is growing steadily. Considerable successes have been scored in grain production. Cotton production developed steadily. Quite a lot has been done in animal husbandry too. Production of meat, milk and eggs has grown notably. Yet difficulties still remain, the needs of the population in farm animal products are not being fully met. This is why we are giving special attention to the priority development of this industry. The task for 1979 is to double the increment in meat production. As a minimum we must advance further at the same rate. Last year's July and November plenums of the CPSU CC outlined the necessary measures. [At this point the live version of Brezhnev's address carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1500 GMT on 2 March adds the following sentence: "The Central Committee has called on the party, administrative and economic bodies and the collectives of working people to do everything possible to achieve the fulfillment of these decisions."]

The all-round growth of the economy has created a good base for raising the people's living standards. About four-fifths of the national income, that is 1.5 trillion rubles were spent directly on the people's welfare in 1974-1975. This is almost a third more than in the previous five-year period.

Ensuring undeviating fulfillment of the social programme adopted by the 25th congress, the party will go on devoting prime attention to improving the life of Soviet people: to raising the wages and salaries and real incomes of working people, to increasing social funds, to building houses.

It is important to underline that the successes of the Soviet Union as a whole mean also successes for each republic. Let me cite just one fact. Kazakhstan's industrial output is five times that of all pre-revolutionary Russia. Only by combining the efforts of the people of that republic with those of the whole country could Kazakhstan rise to such heights. The same can be said about any other republic. Such is the result of the Leninist nationalities policy, of the friendship and brotherhood of the Soviet peoples.

In general, when evaluating the results of our economic and social policy, it can be quite definitely said that your principal mandate, comrade electors, has been implemented. At the same time the party, the government also bear in mind your other mandate: to reliably safeguard the peaceful work of Soviet people.

And this calls for considerable means to strengthen the country's security both in the west and in the east. We spend on defence as much as is absolutely necessary. Not more, but not less either. In accordance with the situation. And I am certain, that Soviet people understand this.

Of course, it is far from my mind to paint the situation in a national economy in rosy colours. We still have a lot of shortcomings, of unresolved problems. They were taken up at the November (1978) Plenum of the CPSU CC, and I don't want to indulge in repetition. I shall only reiterate that we see the solution of the majority of such problems in raising labour efficiency and the quality of work.

The party has long set this task in the centre of economic activities. It must be admitted, however, that it is being resolved slowly. And it is impeded not by objective circumstances alone, but by the routine force of inertia, in planning, in methods of management and, perhaps, most of all, in managerial thinking.

We have lived for a long time with acute shortages, scanty norms on almost everything--metal and fuel, machines and equipment. Naturally, all our thoughts were bent on increasing production, on supplying the economy with at least the most essential.

Today the Soviet Union produces nearly two-three times more, and sometimes many times more of all kinds of produce than 15-20 years ago. Nevertheless, there are shortages now of this, now of that. Why? Not only because of the fast-growing needs, though this should not be disregarded either. The matter lies also in the habit, in a kind of tradition, whereby more attention is given to building up the volume of production, rather than to its quality, rather than to the effective rational utilization of what is produced. But with the mammoth scale of the economy the latter factor assumes decisive importance. Utilizing it in full measures would make it possible, even at the present level of production, to meet the country's needs in metal, fuel, building materials and consumer goods much better.

The above-said fully applies to agriculture. The harvests are growing but the losses of potatoes, vegetables and fruit, and even grain are still considerable.

At the same time agriculture is an integral part of the agro-industrial complex which is called upon to supply the country with raw materials and food. The gauge of success here must not only be the gathered harvest but, above all, everything which goes to the consumer--to the shop counters, to collective farm markets, to the table of Soviet people. This is the end result of all efforts and it should be considered the main one.

Therefore the latest plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee laid down a directive: While distributing capital investments, to increase funds and resources for ensuring the preservation, quick transportation and quality processing of everything produced by the countryside. [sentence as received] This directive must be undeviatingly carried into life. I am sure that such an approach will help raise the efficiency of agriculture and improve more quickly the supply of the population with foodstuffs.

In short, comrades, there is no matter more important today than an economical, and most rational use of all our possibilities and riches. What is required for this is new approaches in investment policy and many spheres of technical policy, manoeuvering of the available capacities and manpower resources, overcoming of departmental and parochial tendencies. This also calls for a certain reorganisation in planning and methods of economic management, in the system of indicators and material incentives. And however complex this reorganization may be, we cannot do without it.

It seems especially appropriate to say this today because the new composition of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Government and central economic bodies will have to work in a very responsible period, a period when the current five-year plan is being completed and the next one prepared. The 11th 5-Year Plan should embody in full measure the economic policy of the party, to incorporate all the latest achievements of economic and scientific-technical thought, all our experience.

Vladimir Ilich Lenin attached great importance to the economic activities of the soviets. A review of the activities of the Moscow Soviet's Executive Committee is kept in his library in the Kremlin. In the passage which said that during three and a half months of 1920 the Executive Committee discussed 46 organizational questions and only 8 economic ones, Vladimir Ilich underlined the figures and wrote on the margins: "It must be the other way round".

The new Constitution has expanded the rights of the soviets in the economic field. It is necessary to learn to use these rights. The more so that in economic development there are tasks which no one can solve better than the soviets.

It is known that in recent years no little work has been done for the specialisation and concentration of production, for strengthening the principle of management by branches. But the more active therefore should be the work of supreme and local soviets, of their executive bodies in ensuring integrated economic and social development in a given territory. It is only by a reasonable combination of the branch and territorial principles that effective management can be ensured.

A tremendous vital force is inherent in our soviets and in Soviet democracy. And it should be used more fully to tap existing reserves, to criticise shortcomings, to compare opinions and to work out substantiated decisions. Soviet democracy can and must serve economic progress still better, and economic progress has been and will remain the foundation, the material basis for a still fuller ensurance of the rights and freedoms of Soviet people, for the further flourishing of socialist democracy.

The solution of economic tasks before us calls for a creative approach, for a high sense of responsibility, for the strictest discipline in all sections of the economy. This refers to the work of economic executives at all levels. This also refers to the people directly involved in production. Let everyone who operates a machinetool, works in the field or at a drawing board ask himself whether he has done everything to work more productively, with a better quality, to save materials and not to waste time.

To judge by the letters received by the Central Committee of the party, and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, by the character of statements made by working people during the election campaign, Soviet people are fully aware of the importance of this question for the development of our country in present-day conditions.

The demand for better organization, for greater responsibility and discipline at all sectors of work--is one of the main instructions of the electorate. Let us, comrades, do everything for this instruction to be carried out, not in word but in deed.

Let me turn now to international issues.

The years that have passed since the previous elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR were a period of great and complex events in the world arena. Those were years of the further successful development of the countries of socialism, of new victories by the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America in their struggle for national and social liberation, of considerable intensification of the class battles of working people in the capitalist countries, and of the growing influence of the communist and workers' parties there.

At the same time it was a period when the most reactionary forces of imperialism, arms manufacturers and militarists, cold war advocates and their hired or voluntary yes men joined in a broad campaign against the relaxation of international tension and disarmament, against the liberation struggle. Referring to the "Soviet threat" which they themselves invented, they demanded the allocation of ever more billions for military aims, the creation of ever more destructive and barbarous types of weapons. They are trying by force of arms to crush the liberation movement of the peoples, they are interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. The position of China's leaders is increasingly merging with the policy of imperialism.

By their unprecedentedly brazen bandit attack on a small neighbouring country--Socialist Vietnam--the present Beijing rulers revealed fully to the whole world the perfidious aggressive essence of the great-power policy pursued by them.

Now everybody sees that it is this policy that represents the most serious threat to peace in the whole world. The entire danger of any forms of connivance at that policy is more evident now than ever before.

The Soviet people together with the peace-loving peoples of the whole world demands an immediate end to the Chinese aggression against Vietnam, withdrawal of all the troops of the interventionists to the last soldier from the land of Vietnam. Our friendship with fraternal Vietnam has been tested in practice over many years. And today, at this difficult hour for the Vietnamese people, we fully and entirely solidarize with it. And nobody should have any doubts: The Soviet Union is true to the treaty of friendship and cooperation binding together our countries. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is conducting a just, noble struggle. All upright and peace-loving people all over the world are on its side. Therefore Vietnam's cause is invincible and the aggressor's plans are doomed to failure.

In this situation, comrades, the Central Committee of our party, the Soviet Government are making maximum efforts to develop cooperation with the forces of peace, freedom and progress, to frustrate the plans of the aggressive circles, to uphold and deepen the relaxation of international tension, to reliably ensure for the Soviet people, our allies and friends the possibility to live and work in conditions of peace.

Evaluating the results of the past years we can say with satisfaction: We have managed to achieve serious successes practically along all directions of the foreign policy activities determined by the historic documents of the 24th and 25th party congresses.

One of the principled features of our epoch is the confident, dynamic development of the world of socialism and the steady growth of its beneficial influence on the international situation. The unification of Vietnam, the socialist revolution in Laos, the victory of the forces of socialism and democracy in Kampuchea have made this world even bigger, stronger and more diverse.

We devote prime attention to ties with fraternal countries. They are becoming ever more deeper and diversified.

Studying and drawing on each other's experience countries of the socialist community have made these years new big strides in state development, in the development of socialist democracy.

The role of the CMEA has grown noticeably in the field of economic ties. It has become an important instrument of solving the national economic tasks of socialist countries. The CMEA is marking its 30th anniversary in a businesslike manner: The signing of a number of new joint economic projects is being prepared, the drafting of two more long-term special programs is nearing completion. The best way of celebrating an anniversary is by good accomplishments. But another thing is also evident: Far from all forms of cooperation have been tried out, and there is need of a creative and active quest.

The ending of the arms race, the prevention of the danger of a world nuclear war has now become the most pressing, the most burning task for mankind. The Soviet Union, just as the other countries of socialism, do not stint efforts in the struggle for these aims.

A tremendous importance in contemporary international life has been acquired by the collective initiatives of our countries directed at strengthening peace. This applies, in particular, also the declaration adopted at the recent meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Organization in Moscow. It contains a number of new major ideas directed at improving the international climate, at disarmament.

One of the biggest tasks in this respect is undoubtedly the drafting of the new Soviet-American agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms. It appears that the work of more than six years is now close to completion, of course, in some things the treaty, from our point of view, could have been better. Not everything in it fully accords with our wishes. But that is a reasonable compromise, which takes into consideration the interests of both sides. On the whole, however, this is an important and good endeavour.

Firstly, the new agreement, if it is signed, ratified and enters into force, will create for several years--concerning a number of important points till 1985--a definite barrier in the way of the further stockpiling of the most destructive and costly types of arms. The principle of the equality and equal security of the sides will find expression in this agreement.

It can be said definitely that its implementation will not inflict any damage to the security of the Soviet Union, or to the security of the United States, for that matter. On the whole, I would say, it will be advantageous to both countries.

Secondly, the entry of the agreement into force will mean that the process of curbing the arms race, started on the initiative of the USSR, is continuing. The SALT-I agreement was followed by SALT-II. After the latter's entry into force work will begin on the SALT-III agreement. It should go still further, put a brake on the creation of new types of weapons, provide this time not only for a limitation on the growth of arms but also for their reduction by both sides.

The present agreement will probably help revive also the other currently conducted talks, for instance, on the full prohibition of nuclear tests, on restricting the sale of conventional arms and, we hope, also the talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe.

Then, thirdly, the conclusion of the SALT-IV agreement will undoubtedly have a beneficial effect on the international climate in general. When its drafting is completed the new agreement will probably be signed during my meeting with President Carter, hopefully in the near future. We intend to discuss also a number of questions of the further development of Soviet-American relations, of consolidating the relaxation of international tension and strengthening universal peace.

There are also other changes in the field of restricting the arms race. Conventions prohibiting bacteriological weapons and banning the modification of the natural environment for military purposes have entered into force.

There is taking place a certain strengthening of the regime of nuclear non-proliferation. This is facilitated also by the creation of the world's first nuclear-free zone which encompasses most countries of Latin America. The United Nations General Assembly approved our proposals on guarantees of the security of nonnuclear states, on the non-deployment of nuclear weapons on the territory of countries where there are no nuclear arms at present and, what is especially important, called on the nuclear powers to start talks on fully stopping the production of nuclear weapons and reducing their stockpiles. We regard this as an exceptionally important matter and are prepared to start such talks.

The political climate in Europe has changed noticeably in the past years, and again, to a great extent, under the influence of the policy of the USSR and other countries of socialism. The European conference and its Final Act, signed during the meeting in Helsinki, became an important landmark. The main routes of advance toward detente were correctly defined there.

The changes in Europe can be seen in many things. There is a new aspect to the political interrelationships between the countries of Eastern and Western Europe. Contacts and consultations between governments, mutual visits by leaders--missions of goodwill--have become a matter of routine. The geography of peaceful cooperation has expanded. For the Soviet Union it now includes also Portugal and Spain. Our relations with Turkey are developing quite well.

The economic ties between European countries are becoming more stable. For example, we concluded lately long-term economic agreements with Finland, France, the FRG and a number of other countries.

Our relations with Italy can also well be placed on a similar basis. Such agreements are a sort of joint East-West capital investment in a very necessary and mutually advantageous business--the preservation and consolidation of international peace.

Of course, we are not playing down the difficulties standing in the way of strengthening peace and the security of peoples. To spread detente to the military sphere is today's priority task. This is particularly necessary because the NATO bloc is feverishly building up its armaments, complicating the situation in Europe. On our part, we are striving for agreement on real measures to lessen the level of military confrontation on the continent, which would strengthen the foundations of European peace. Unfortunately, there are so far no changes in this respect.

Take the negotiations in Vienna. At present they have bogged down in the quagmire of dispute over the methods of counting the personnel of the sides' armed forces--right to the last cook or medical orderly. Frankly speaking, this is simply the Western countries' tactics, an attempt to evade agreement right at the time when the positions of the sides on the substance of the matter came considerably closer. After all, it is a fact that a general military equilibrium does exist in Europe, even if there are differences in the structure of the armed forces of each side. And it is from this fact that one should proceed.

The proposals of the socialist countries are known. I shall remind you that within the framework of these proposals the Soviet Union is prepared, to start with, to withdraw from central Europe within a year 30,000 servicemen and a considerable amount of military equipment, including one thousand tanks, on condition that the United States reduces, and on a lesser scale at that, its armed forces in this area. We are still waiting for a constructive reply to these proposals.

Reports are appearing ever more frequently lately, that the Pentagon is pressuring the FRG in order to secure its consent to the stationing in that country, in addition to the American forward-based weapons already present there, also of medium-range nuclear missile weapons aimed at the Soviet Union. It appears that voices of protest against this can be heard in the FRG.

This is quite understandable: For the implementation of these plans, just as of the plans of the American military in respect of neutron weapons, would result only in a new growth of tension in Europe, in a new upsurge of the arms race and also in a drastic growth of the danger to the FRG itself.

As to the Soviet Union, it has already stated more than once that it stands not for building up, but for reducing nuclear missile or other weapons through agreement of the sides on the basis of complete reciprocity. This concerns also medium-range weapons in Europe, but with due account, of course, for the existence there of American military bases as well. Our common stand with the fraternal socialist states on this matter again found recently reflection in the Moscow declaration of the Warsaw Treaty member-countries.

Another question. With the aim of strengthening mutual trust, participants in the European conference have started to inform one another about military exercises conducted in the respective area, and to invite foreign observers to them.

Perhaps, we could now expand this practice and give advance notice not only about exercises, but also about all considerable troop movements in the framework of the area concerned, and also about major naval exercises when held near the waters of other participating countries of the European conference.

We are prepared, of course, to study also other proposals directed at strengthening mutual trust.

In 1976, Warsaw Treaty member states proposed that all participating countries of the European conference undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons against one another. In response, the West began to maintain that this would allegedly increase the probability of wars with the use of conventional weapons. If so, let us then reach agreement on not being the first to use either nuclear or conventional weapons. In other words, let us conclude something like a non-aggression pact between the participants in the European conference. This, I believe, would fully conform to the spirit of Helsinki.

In recent years our relations with many countries that freed themselves from colonial or semi-colonial oppression have become still closer.

Support for the struggles of the peoples for national liberation and social progress is a principle of our foreign policy recorded in the Constitution of the USSR. This principle is being consistently implemented. We are proud of the unselfish aid which the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community have given, for instance, to the peoples of Angola and Ethiopia in their struggle against aggression, for the right to independently shape their future. The progressive transformations in Revolutionary Afghanistan evoke in Soviet people feelings of solidarity and sincere sympathy.

Our treaties of friendship and cooperation with Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Afghanistan are an important feature of our time. These are not military alliances or coalitions spearheaded against somebody, but precisely documents of friendship and cooperation with those who have embarked on the road of building a society without oppression and exploitation.

There is no sphere of world politics in which our party and the Soviet state would not be coming out for the cause of justice, progress and peace. It is from these positions that we also approach the struggle for freedom and democracy in distant Nicaragua and in neighbouring Iran, the struggle by the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia for liberation from racist oppression, the struggle for eliminating the system of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa. This also determines our attitude to the problems of a Middle East settlement. Here, just as in other areas of the world, we are neither seeking selfish advantages, nor claiming the natural wealth of other countries. We are for lasting peace and stand firmly on the side of the lawful rights of the Arab peoples, of their struggle for eliminating the aftermaths of the Israeli aggression, against imperialist diktat, against capitulatory deals, against bartering away the Arabs' vital interests. Special mention should be made of the people's, anti-imperialist, national-liberation revolution in Iran.

Like all sincere champions of peace, progress and independence of the peoples, we welcome the victory of this revolution which put an end to a despotic regime of oppression, that had turned the country into an object of exploitation and a base of support for foreign imperialism. We wish the new revolutionary Iran successes and prosperity and hope that relations of good neighbourliness between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Iran will fruitfully develop in the new conditions on the firm foundation of mutual respect, goodwill and non-interference in each other's intenal affairs.

We will further strengthen friendship and cooperation with the emergent countries, with member states of the nonaligned movement, with the peoples struggling for their freedom and independence.

Comrades, we are pursuing and will further pursue our entire foreign policy in close alliance with the fraternal socialist states, relying on the support of independent freedom-loving countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America and in cooperation with all peace-loving states and public forces in the capitalist part of the world. Our aim is a lasting peace and security for the Soviet people, a lasting peace and peaceful cooperation among all states of the world. And for the attainment of this aim we shall struggle tirelessly, stinting no efforts and energy.

That is, perhaps, all I wanted to say today. The party's election platform is set forth in the CPSU Central Committee's appeal, in the speeches of my comrades--members and alternate members of the Political Bureau, secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee, in my speech today. And I urge you, all electors to vote for the candidates of the bloc of Communists and non-party people.

The unanimous firm support by the people of the political course of our Leninist party is a reliable foundation for forward movement, the guarantee that the plans made will be translated into life. They will be translated into life by the will of the party, by the work of Soviet people--in the name of their wellbeing and happiness.

In conclusion, let me assure you and all those who nominated and supported my candidature to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR that I shall do my best to be worthy of this great trust which imposes a high responsibility.

TASS REPORTS ON CENTRAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION SESSION

LD021356 Moscow TASS in English 1516 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--"The progress of the election campaign has again vividly demonstrated the solidarity of the working people in their support of their own Communist Party, the unbreakability of the bloc of the Communists and non-party people, the efficient character of socialist democracy", says a report of the Central Electoral Commission. The commission discussed today questions of holding elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet. "The preparations for elections have convincingly shown that the CPSU's home and foreign policy, the fruitful activities of its Central Committee, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, headed by Leonid Brezhnev, a true Leninist, an outstanding politician and statesman enjoy whole-hearted support of the whole of the Soviet people, the report stresses. [quote marks as received]

The elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet, the supreme organ of state power of the country, are to be held on March 4.

VOTING BEGINS IN ELECTIONS TO SUPREME SOVIET

LD040730 Moscow TASS in English 0715 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 4, TASS--Today is the day of elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet. Polling started at six o'clock in the morning of local time in all of the Soviet Union's republics and regions. Polling stations will be open till ten o'clock in the evening. Already the first reports coming from all parts of this country indicate a very active participation of Soviet citizens in the elections.

A total of fifteen hundred candidates are today standing for election to the Supreme Soviet--750 to the Soviet of the Union and the same number to the Soviet of the Nationalities. These two equal chambers of the Soviet parliament ensure a just representation in the highest body of state authority in this country of both the Soviet people as a whole, and the people of each national republic of the USSR.

The current elections are held for the first time after the adoption of the new Constitution of the USSR (1977) and of the election law. The law has set, in particular, that to be eligible for election to the Soviet parliament, a citizen of the USSR must have reached the age of 21, while earlier the age qualification was 23. As a result, the number of young people at the age of up to 30 years nominated to run for election to the Supreme Soviet has noticeably grown.

The elections were preceded by a large-scale election campaign, which lasted for more than two months and a half. It was based on a long and all-round discussion of the persons, whom the working people proposed to nominate for election to the USSR Supreme Soviet. It was only after discussion at numerous meetings of the electorate, that these persons were registered as candidates for election as deputies. An important stage in this campaign were the meetings of the electorate with their candidates. They were held in all the 1,500 constituencies of this country.

Electoral Commission on Turnout

LD041918 Moscow TASS in English 1905 GMT 4 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 4, TASS--By 12 hours (midday) Moscow time 88.20 per cent of the electorate, and by eighteen hours--99.58 per cent of the electorate had voted in the Soviet Union, reports the Central Electoral Commission.

By eighteen hours had taken part in the voting: in the Russian Federation--99.54 per cent of the electorate, in the Ukraine--99.91 per cent, in Belorussia--99.81 per cent, in Uzbekistan--99.99 per cent, in Kazakhstan--99.89 per cent, in Georgia--99.85 per cent, in Azerbaijan--99.99 per cent, in Lithuania--00.86 per cent, in Moldavia--99.52 per cent, in Latvia--99.51 per cent, in Kirgizia--99.94 per cent, in Tadzhikistan--99.63 per cent, in Armenia--99.78 per cent, in Turkmenia--99.72 per cent, and in Estonia--99.77 per cent of the electorate.

"Everywhere elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet passed in an organised manner and in an atmosphere of high political activity on the part of the voters, who demonstrated the unbreakable unity of the party and the people, the triumph of socialist democracy," notes the report.

COMPARISONS TO GROMYKO ELECTION SPEECH IN MINOR

Domestic Policy Section

In the domestic policy section of the Supreme Soviet election speech by Politburo member Gromyko, published in the 2 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page R20, Moscow PRAVDA in its 27 February edition contains the following omissions:

Page R23, paragraph one, PRAVDA omits the last sentence in the paragraph.

Page R 29, PRAVDA omits paragraphs ten and eleven.

Page R 30, PRAVDA ends paragraph five with sentence ending "...of Soviet people." in line two. PRAVDA then omits paragraphs six, seven and eight.

Page R 31, PRAVDA omits paragraph five.

Foreign Policy Section

In the foreign policy section of Gromyko's Supreme Soviet election speech, published in the 1 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page R 1, Moscow PRAVDA in its 27 February edition contains the following omissions:

Page R 5, paragraph three, PRAVDA omits sentence "Our borders have and must have dependable and strong locks."

Page R 5, last paragraph, first line, PRAVDA omits the first two sentences: "Our country does not change friends. This is not our custom."

Page R 6, PRAVDA omits final paragraph.

TASS REPORTS ORBIT CORRECTION OF SALYUT-6-SOYUZ-32

LD011904 Moscow TASS in English 1850 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

["Salyut-6--Soyuz-32: An Orbit Correction"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 1, TASS--A TASS correspondent reports from the Flight Control Centre:

Cosmonauts Vladimir Lyakhov and Valery Ryumin go on working on board the Salyut-6--Soyuz-32 orbital research complex.

Today the crew checked out individual onboard systems, instruments and consoles of scientific instrumentation. They carried out a technical experiment to check the serviceability of the station's control system in a manual attitude control mode. In the second half of the day a correction of the flight path of the orbital complex was effected with the use of the propulsion system of the Soyuz-32 spaceship. After the correction, the parameters of the orbit of the Salyut-6--Soyuz-32 manned complex are as follows: The maximum distance from earth's surface--338 kilometers, the minimum distance--308 kilometers, orbital period--90.9 minutes, orbital inclination--51.6 degrees. The onboard systems of the station and the spaceship are functioning normally. Vladimir Lyakhov and Valeriy Ryumin are feeling well. The flight is proceeding in accordance with the planned program

USSR LAUNCHES METEOR-2 SATELLITE 1 MARCH

LD020930 Moscow TASS in English 0915 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

["Meteor-2 in Flight"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--Another meteorological sputnik Meteor-2 was launched in the Soviet Union on March 1, 1979, in accordance with the programme of further development of the meteorological system with the help of artificial earth satellites.

The initial period of its revolution is 102.3 minutes, the maximum distance from the surface of the earth--908 kilometers, the minimum--857 kilometers. The inclination of the orbit--81.2 degrees.

The sputnik has aboard complexes of equipment to obtain global pictures of cloudiness and underlying surface in the visible and infrared spectra, and also radio-metric instruments for continuous observation of flows of penetrating radiation in the near-Earth space.

The sputnik's equipment is working normally. Information from the sputnik is received by the State Scientific Research Center for the Study of the Environment and Natural Resources of the Earth and the Hydrometeorological Center of the USSR.